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THE HINDU on Sunday

AUGUST 28, 2022

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CWC to meet today, first after exit of Ghulam Nabi Azad
page 10

Illegally built twin towers in Noida to be razed by implosion
page 11

Trump mixed top secret documents with magazines, says FBI
page 12

Rohit's India meets Babar's Pakistan in Asia Cup today
page 17

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POCSO case against seer of Murugha mutt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Seer and chief of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, has been charged with sexually harassing minor girls who were residents of the hostel run by the mutt.

Two girls, now sheltered with an NGO in Mysuru, appeared before Child Welfare Committee and made a statement detailing their alleged sexual harassment by the seer with the assistance of the hostel warden and three others.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 4

Traffic stuck as highway gets flooded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Heavy rain in parts of Bengaluru from Friday night crippled traffic movement on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway for hours on Saturday. Weekend traffic was stuck for hours – from 5 a.m. well into the afternoon – after low-lying areas of the highway were inundated at multiple locations.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Amid political stalemate, Soren seeks to keep his flock together

Jharkhand Governor likely to decide on disqualification of Chief Minister soon

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

With the political crisis deepening in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and MLAs of the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) on Saturday spent the day at a guest house in Khunti district, 40 km from Ranchi, before returning to the State capital late in the evening.

Mr. Soren and the legislators were seen enjoying a boat ride in a lake near the Latratu dam. The Chief Minister faces disqualification as an MLA for allegedly violating electoral laws by extending a mining lease to himself while holding the Mines portfolio.

The legislators reached the Dumargadi guest house, which was under heavy security cover, in the afternoon on three luxury buses.

"Sitting and meeting in Ranchi for the past two days had got us bored, and since it was Saturday, we decided to go somewhere for our weekend tour together and enjoy the moment," Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Joba Manjhi told mediapersons.

Party leader Mahua Manjhi echoed similar sentiments and said they were not going outside the State.

Safety in numbers: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren with Pradesh Congress Committee president Rajesh Thakur and UPA MLAs ride a boat in Khunti district on Saturday. • PTI

The MLAs of the ruling coalition reached Mr. Soren's official residence on Saturday afternoon with suitcases and bags. They held a marathon meeting, the third in a row, before leaving for the guest house in Khunti. It is said that as many as 43 legislators travelled in the three buses.

Where numbers stand

In the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, the Soren-led JMM has 30 MLAs. Among its allies, the Congress has 18 MLAs, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and the Nationalist Congress party have one each.

The Opposition BJP has 26 MLAs with the support of two legislators of the All Jharkhand Student's Union (AJSU) and two others. The magic figure to form the government is 41.

Sources in the Raj Bhavan said Governor Ramesh Bais was likely to send the disqualification order to the Election Commission of India soon. "It could be tonight [Saturday] itself or tomorrow morning," the source said.

"Whatever decision the Governor or the Election Commission takes, they should take it without any delay as we are prepared for any eventuality, even for the floor test. But Hemant Soren will be our leader," said a senior State Congress leader who was among those camping at the resort.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

COVID lull over, students throng coaching capital

As online classes dip, ed-tech firms too set up shop in Kota

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
KOTA

From shopkeepers and autorickshaw drivers to the managers of hostels, almost everyone in Kota says the same thing: "This is the first time I have seen so many students in this city."

As the "coaching centre city" in Rajasthan welcomes tens of thousands of students after two years of a lull forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, posters exhorting "#ReviveKota" dot the landscape. The Talwandi area, where most of the centres are housed, is bustling with eager-looking students waiting to start the gruelling preparation for medical or engineering entrance tests.

Around two lakh students joined coaching classes in Kota annually prior to the pandemic; this year, an additional 75,000 to one lakh students are estimated to have made their way here. Some institutes are reporting a doubling or tripling in the number of admissions when compared with pre-pandemic levels.

Nitin Vijay, founder and CEO of Motion Education, one of the biggest coaching centres here, said that for this "new [bigger] market", ed-tech companies like Unacademy and Physicswallah, who have opened their first physical coaching centres in Kota this year, can take partial credit. His centre has also seen its classrooms swell by three times when compared with 2019, Mr. Vijay said.

Study time: Students and parents waiting at a coaching centre in Kota awaiting allotment of hostel rooms.

SPECIAL

While ed-tech companies were flourishing during the pandemic in the online mode, the smaller in-person coaching centres in Kota struggled to survive the shift, he added. Now, with in-person classes back, ed-tech companies like Unacademy and Physicswallah are admitting students to their new physical centres in Kota to survive the drop in demand for online coaching.

"A number of the students at the new centres had stuck with the ed-tech companies for online lessons through the pandemic but now want to benefit from physical classrooms for the final stretch of preparation," said Nilay Kumar Ray, 19, who hails from West Bengal, and was waiting for the completion of his admission paperwork to the newly opened Physicswallah JEE coaching centre.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

No more mighty: A container ship navigates the Rhine in Kaub, Germany. The river has a very low water level as summer bites. • AP

Europe's bitter summer

The continent has been ravaged by water shortage and heat stress

First the forest fire and now the drought. A continent known for its bitter winter is now reeling under a harsh summer, a far remove from the temperate weather during the season when all of Europe used to be out under the sun in the previous years. The scorching heat has fuelled forest fires, dried up rivers and devastated crops, the 27-nation bloc's earth observation programme warns in a report.

"Warmer and drier than usual conditions are likely to occur in the western Euro-Mediterranean region in the coming months till November 2022," notably in Spain and Portugal, the EU's Copernicus programme said in a report for the month of August. The report comes amid what experts say could be the continent's worst drought in 500 years.

Almost half of the 27-nation EU is under drought warning, with conditions worsening in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Spain.

The report also noted rising drought hazards outside the EU, in Britain, Serbia, Ukraine and Moldova.

Copernicus said that a shortage of rain and a sequence of heatwaves since May has led to the dry conditions and lower river levels.

That in turn has hit the energy sector, depriving hydroelectric and other power plants of their prime source of energy and cooling liquid.

Water shortages and heat stress are also reducing European crop yields, with maize, soybean, and sunflower hardest hit.

Out in the open: The dolmen of Guadalperal, also known as the Spanish Stonehenge, is seen due to the receding waters of the Valdecanas reservoir on the outskirts of El Gordo, Spain. • REUTERS

Weather vane: A withered sunflower field near Kemlitz, Germany. Crops such as maize and soybean have also been affected. • GETTY IMAGES

Bubbling in the heat: Grenache grapes being loaded at a vineyard in Madrid, Spain. The farmers have advanced the harvest following the high temperatures. • GETTY IMAGES

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THE HINDU
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022

'Decision on placing Ganesha idol at Idgah maidan in two days'

Revenue Minister Ashok visits Idgah maidan and says five applications seeking permission to install the idol there have been received

Revenue Minister R. Ashok on Saturday said the government was committed to ensuring peaceful conduct of the Ganesha Chaturthi celebration and a decision on giving permission to organisers to hold the festival at Idgah maidan at Chamarajpet here would be taken in two days.

Two under consideration

The Minister visited the Idgah maidan and said he had received five applications seeking permission to install Ganesha idol there, and two applications, from local organisations, have been under the active consideration of the department.

Mr. Ashok said he had held meetings with senior police officers to ensure law and order during the festival.

At an appropriate time

The government would follow the order of the High Court of Karnataka and also respect the sentiments of the citizens who fought for two decades for the conduct of the Ganesha festival at the maidan, he said, adding "We will take an appropriate step at an appropriate time."

The government welcomed the decision of the Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Idgah maidan on Friday. The Minister said the government would take measures to implement the High Court order in its "letter and spirit". On August 15, the Revenue Department hoisted the tricolour after the civic body ruled that the grounds belonged to it.

Police set tough rules for putting up pandals

It's organisers' responsibility to ensure law and order and submit full details to the police, says the guidelines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

While a discussion is on regarding the modalities for installing Ganesha at the controversial Chamarajpet Idgah maidan, the city Police Commissioner issued a set of guidelines on Saturday stating that no permission would be given to install Ganesha idols at controversial places.

In an official release, C.H. Pratap Reddy said that the organisers have to abide by all rules and any violation would be strictly dealt with.

The rules state that the organisers have to obtain permission from the single window, and it is the organisers' responsibility to ensure law and order and submit full details to the police. The organisers should also display their contact details at the venue.

Security measures such as deploying volunteers at the venue and installation of CCTVs are a must. In addition to this, no kitchen and cooking activities are allowed near the venue. The organisers should ensure the presence of fire extinguishers and also depute an electrician round the clock. The organisers should ensure there is enough parking for devotees to visit the venue.

The organisers should ensure the use of loudspeakers and mics as per the High Court directions. They should refrain from collecting donations forcibly, the guidelines say.

Meanwhile, Private Schools and Colleges Parents Association has filed a complaint with the City Police Commissioner seeking action against the organisers for using students to collect donations for the festival. In the complaint, they have alleged that the organisers have given them receipt books and collections boxes forcing them to be sent door to door to collect funds. This is a sheer violation of child rights, they have said and sought the city police commissioner's intervention for necessary action.

Minister of Revenue R. Ashok playing cricket at Idgah maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thief with over 160 cases arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Rajajinagar police on Saturday arrested a 54-year-old habitual offender having over 160 house break-in cases pending against him.

The accused, Ravi Prakash, had mastered the art of breaking locks when he was 10 years old. According to the police, the accused would target palatial houses, jewellery shops, offices and financial firms, and was accompanied by his siblings and children to help in transporting the valuables he stole.

The accused was married thrice – in Kolar, Shivamogga and Ballari – and had seven children. The accused had many serious illness and spent the money on his medication.

He was operated not only in the State but also in Maharashtra, Kerala and Goa.

He was arrested over 20 times, but he used to get bail, and continued committing offences.

Based on a house-break incident reported on August 22, a police team analysed over 50 CCTV footage to identify the accused and arrested him.

Two cheated by escort service

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old student and a 24-year-old techie working in an IT firm filed a complaint with the cybercrime police that they have been cheated by an escort service in separate incidents. Based on the complaints, the South Division and North Division cybercrime police booked cases on Monday and Thursday.

The student searched for the escort service details on social media and contacted the number.

The accused, after a formal chat and agreeing to the terms and conditions, asked him to book a room in a hotel and pay ₹42,000. The victim paid the money online and waited for the services, but in vain.

After futile attempts to contact the service, the victim realised he had been cheated and approached the police. The police are now trying to track down the accused, who is in another State, through the transaction route.

In another incident, a 24-year-old techie downloaded an app and paid ₹33,300 to avail of an escort service and was cheated. The victim was assured that someone will get in touch with him as soon as he paid. But the service has been incommunicado since then. The app later turned out to be fake and was being used to cheat people.

Bakery employee arrested, 10 kg of marijuana seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Saturday arrested a 42-year-old bakery employee and recovered 10 kg of marijuana which he was selling to his customers.

The accused has been identified as Manikumar Singh, a native of Bihar and employed in a bakery at Marathahalli. According to the police, the accused used to source the drugs from his contact in Odisha and selling it to his customers, who are mainly labourers from Uttar Pradesh who were regular visitors to his bakery. Based on a tip-off, the police raided his bakery and caught him red handed before searching his rented house and recovering the rest of the drugs which he had stored.

In another incident, the Wilson Garden police arrested a 34-year-old rowdy-sheeter and recovered 21 kg of marijuana from him. The accused Pagalavan used to move around on a bike to peddle drugs in and around the area. Based on a tip-off , the police arrested the accused, who, the police said, confessed that after being released from prison, he resorted to drug peddling to earn quick money.

Six held for stealing 30 bikes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bagepalli police arrested six mechanics from Kadiri in Andhra Pradesh for stealing as many as 30 bikes in the last five months.

The accused Sheikh Moula, Imran Pathan, D. Vengamani, Khadar Pasha, P. Shaheed and S. Mohammed Ali were arrested by a special team of police while they were fleeing with a stolen bike.

Deputy Superintendent of Police V.K. Vasudev, heading the investigations, said that the accused, aged between 25 and 27, used to come to Bagepalli and other bordering areas, move around residential areas to identify bikes parked outside houses and steal them. As the accused are mechanics , they knew how to break the handlocks and start the engine without ignition keys.

The accused would then ride the stolen bikes back to their hometown, sell them and share the money.

Based on a series of bike-theft cases , a special team had been formed to keep a watch and put up checkpoints at the entry and exit to monitor suspicious movements. After several days of keeping a watch, the police succeeded in apprehending a few members of the gang while they were trying to flee with the stolen bikes.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 03-XEN-WS-UBLS/2022-23 Dated: 23-08-2022.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Annual Maintenance and Operation Contract for 50 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant in Hubballi Workshop.	Rs. 21,17,184/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 14-09-2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop Hubballi

PUB/18/AWD/PRB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform the general public, that we have released a Public Notice on 26th August 2022, in respect of loss of original documents in respect of the Properties, situated at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, in the Hindu and Vijayavani daily, wherein by oversight name of the Village of the Properties was missed out.

The Properties mentioned in the said publication shall be read as the Properties **situated at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk.**

M/s. Jury Legal Solutions
Advocates
No.8, 14th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102.
M : 9844897355 / 9902195500 / 9591509999
Place: Bangalore Date: 27-08-2022

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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.159/2022
Dt.26.08.2022
Supply of Stores Items
E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. tenderers are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and submit their offers online. The tender description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is 14.30 hrs. of the due date of the tender. "For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on **www.ireps.gov.in.**"

Tender No.	Brief Description
76.22.1271A	Solid MIG/MAG Welding Filler wire
38.22.5002A	Twin pipe Air Brake system
77.22.1252B	Petroleum Hydrocarbon Solvent (Thinner)
77.22.1234D	Paint Black Japan
38.22.1006A	22.22 MM DIA LOCK BOLT WITH COLLAR
30.22.1385	Screw COUPLING Assembly
30.22.1397	Footstep Arrangement
38.22.2063B	Bogie Centre pivot Bottom
16.22.1002	Filter fuel oil to EMD Pt. No. 8423132
77.22.1168B	Paint anti corrosive Bituminous Block
38.22.2311A	Poly rings
29.22.1041	Elastic ring (Aclathan ring) as per RDSO
30.22.1360A	Draw Bar and Castle Nut

Note: Due dates of Tender Opening:
SL.No. 01 on dt.13.09.2022.
SL.No. 02 to 04 on dt.19.09.2022.
SL.No. 05 & 06 on dt.21.09.2022.
SL.No. 07 on dt 22.09.2022.
SL.No. 08 on dt. 23.09.2022.
SL.No. 09 & 10 on dt.26.09.2022
SL.No. 11 on dt 28.09.2022.
SL.No. 12 on dt 06.10.2022.
SLNo. 13 on dt.10.10.2022.

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 Lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad

E-Tender Notice No. 27-2022
Dt: 26.08.2022

Senior Divisional Engineer/ Coordination/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works. Closing date & Time:23.09.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 1; **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-West-1284; **Description of work:** SW-I Tirupati - Repairs to PRS and ORH service building. SW-II Tirupati - Repairs to RCC slab cover over open drain rear side of Running room and SW-III-CTO- Proposed construction of boundary wall to prevent encroachment at Chittoor Station. **Advertised Value in Rs.:** 88,06,599.97; **Earnest money Deposit in Rs.:** 1,76,100/-

S.No.: 2; **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-South-1285; **Description of work:** Guntakal Division : DEN/South Jurisdiction : RU -GY Section : Through Formation Treatment at Km: 296.00 to 298 = 2.00Kms (DN Line) in ADEN/HX Sub Division. **Advertised Value in Rs.:** 2,00,90,730.27ps; **Earnest money Deposit in Rs.:** 2,50,500/-

S.No.: 3; **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-South-1286; **Description of work:** Proposed in-situ reconditioning of wornout CMS crossings of 1 in 8.5, 1 in 12 and 1 in 16 (60Kg/52Kg/90R Rail Sections) with RDSO approved Translamatic Robotic Technology / with RDSO approved H-3C class welding electrodes and reconditioning of wornout tongue rails (Switches curved/ straight) of 1 in 8.5, 1 in 12 and 1 in 16 (60Kg/52Kg/90R Rail Sections) with RDSO approved H-3C class welding electrodes in DEN/South/GTL Jurisdiction. **Advertised Value in Rs.:** 78,51,147.42ps; **Earnest money Deposit in Rs.:** 1,57,000/-

S.No.: 4; **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-South-1287; **Description of work:** GDR -TPTY Section (UP/DN):- Proposed safety Related Track Maintenance works including station yard lines in SSE/P.Way/RU jurisdiction under ADEN/RU sub-division. **Advertised Value in Rs.:** 1,61,25,732.25ps; **Earnest money Deposit in Rs.:** 2,30,600/-

S.No.: 5; **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-South-1288; **Description of work:** GDR -TPTY Section (UP/DN):- Proposed safety Related Track Maintenance works including station yard lines in SSE/P.Way/VKI jurisdiction under ADEN/RU sub-division. **Advertised Value in Rs.:** 1,16,36,903/-; **Earnest money Deposit in Rs.:** 2,08,200/-

For Bid document and other details login to **http://ireps.gov.in** Any corrigenda will be issued on line only.

Divisional Railway Manager/Works/ Guntakal
A1012

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **Mrs. M. Lalitha** has negotiated for purchase of below mentioned property from its owner **Mrs. K. R. PADMA** W/o. M. Gangadhar, No.74, New No.82, 2nd Main, Manjunath Nagar, Ittamadu, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85.

Any persons, banks / financial Sectors / individual /authorities etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the schedule property shall file his/her/their/its objections along with original documents with the undersigned within **07 DAYS** from the date of this publication.

Any objections on and after **07 days**, shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the sale transaction presuming that there are no claims of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE

Site No.2, Old Katha No.136, present BBMP Katha No.464/136/2, situated at **Hosakerehalli Village,** Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No. 160 (R.R. Nagar) Bengaluru, measuring **East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 60 feet** and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 1, West by : Site No. 3, North by : Property of Narayanappa, South by : Road,

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
#7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building, Diagonal Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-04.
Bengaluru Date : 27-08-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general information to the public, that my Client **Ningappa S/o Late B. Madaiah,** Residing at No.2/6,2nd Floor, 8th Cross, Kottigepalya, Bangalore-560091, purchased the schedule property and they have lost the Possession Certificate Document No.053675, at BMTC Bus No.222 near Kamakshipalya Bus Stop on 14-12-2021. They have searched the same near about, the same is not found, and hence they have lodged the online complaint on 18-01-2022 to jurisdictional Police vide Serial No.137812, Police Unit: Bangalore City, Lost Report No.0137812/2022.

Any Person have found the same please to return the same to my below shows Address, the award will be rewarded to the person return the document and my client is very much thankful to the said Person. If any Persons or institutions having Right, Title, Interest, Charge, lien and claims whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within period of **07 days** from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that here are no objections/ Claims, disputes/ not found the same, in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No. 1476** situated at **BSK 6th Phase 7th Block Bangalore** formed and developed by BDA Bangalore measuring East to West 9 Meter & North to South 12 Meter total measuring **108 Square meters** and bounded on the:-
East : Site No. 1475,
West : Site No. 1477,
North : Road,
South: Site No. 1459.

SHESHAPPAGOUDA PATIL, Advocate
R.R. Nagar, Bangalore-560098,
Mobile No. : 9480117041,

DEPT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Email ID : cdpochanagar@gmail.com Ph : 08226-222603

Date : 19-08-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

2022-23 The Child Development Project Office, Chamarajanagar Taluq, Chamarajanagar District, Department of Women and Child Development. Government of Karnataka Invites tender for eligible tenders who are registered in the e-procurement portal by using ID and Digital Signature for the supply of outsource to the post of Computer Operator and Messenger under the Domestic Violence Act. Chamarajanagar Taluq, in Chamarajanagar District as details given below.

Tender Published Date : 19-08-2022, 12:53:37

Last Date & Time For Receipt of tender : 05-09-2022, 17:00:00

Tender Number - CDPO/DVA/OVTSOURCE-01/2022-23

Date : 19-08-2022

Web Site Address : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- CHILD DEVELOPMET PROJECT OFFICER,
CHAMARAJANAGAR

DIPR : CHANAGAR:272:2022-23

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph.: 080-25191039
E-mail: bmrcl@dataone.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No.: BMRCL/O&M/CSW/L1/02/2022-23 Date: 25.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Construction of Cafeteria Building at Baiyappanahalli Depot".** Estimated Cost: **Rs. 249.49 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 3,74,246/-.** Sale period of tender documents through online: **29.08.2022 to 23.09.2022 (Till Midnight).** Pre-bid meeting: **20.09.2022 at 11.30 Hrs.** Date & time for submission of tender: **27.09.2022 (from 11.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs).** Date & time for opening of tender: **27.09.2022 (at 15.30 hrs).** Cost of tender document: **Rs. 11,800/-.** Completion period: **12 months.** Tender can be downloaded from BMRCL website. For more information visit **http://tender.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SBC-PCET-YPR-SNL2-2022 Dated: 24-08-2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Tender for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on Round Trip Basis for a period of Six Years from Yesvantpur (YPR) to Sanehwal (SNL) Contact Period: Six Years	Rs. 25,16,493/- Reserve Price per round trip for 15 VPH (23 tonnes CC each) + 01 Breakvan (Two units of 04 tonnes CC each)

Pre-bid meeting time and date: **16:00 Hrs. of 06-09-2022** and Last date for submission of bids **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23-09-2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/326/AD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**

S.W.Railways sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
[Phone: (080)-28392310-Ext. 5086, 5087/22685086, 5087, 5094, 5088]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender are invited for the following works:

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Proposed Rate contract for Aluminium partitions at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengalore-58. **E-Tender Notice No:** CMG/LEOS/2022-23/C/LMW-10 Dtd:22.08.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in : Rs. 11.11 Lakhs EMD Rs: 22,215/- Period of Completion in months :** 06 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 24.08.2022 **Closing Date :** 06.09.2022

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Procurement of Electrical Installation for Upgrading augmenting electrical system of LEOS & Aryabhata Campus – Replacement of old DGs at LEOS-1 Campus (Civil Works) – (Realization of 3 nos of foundation for mounting 3 nos of 500 kVA DG, laying of hume pipes for taking cables to existing substation, shelter for DG etc. **E-Tender Notice No:** LEOS/CMG/EW-01/P2/2022-23 Dtd:22.08.2022 **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in : Rs. 19.71 Lakhs EMD Rs: 39,417/- Period of Completion in months :** 02 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 24.08.2022 **Closing Date :** 06.09.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting **e-Tender** (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

-Sd-
DIVISION HEAD, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (C&MD)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

ई–अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई– अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/HZB/03/2022-23

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पुल संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	RDD/SD/HZB/03/2022-23	हजारीबाग जिला के दारु प्रखण्ड में इरगा पंचायत के ओरिया गाँव से पुरनू प्रखण्ड को जोड़ने वाले सड़क पर कोनार नदी पर पड़ैया पर पुल निर्माण।	38357500.00	767200.00	10000.00	15 (पन्द्रह) माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 07.09.2022
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय –दिनांक 13.09.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ० एफ० पी० भवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 14.09.2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ० एफ० पी० भवन, धुर्वा, राँची
6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –15.09.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8986648686 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैंकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग के पदनाम से देय हो, देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,हजारीबाग

PR 276595 (Rural Development)22-23*D

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042, E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com, Fax: 08354-235043

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-2/RD/3054/Tender/2022-23/1762 Date:22.08.2022

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (KW-4 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below. Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below. **Tender Called for 3054 Lumsum Hungund Constituency (Rs.5.00 Crore) Scheme Under Work Indent No: 92647 read as below.**

	Calendar of event	
1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	Dt:22.08.2022 to 07.09.2022 at 5.30pm
2	Pre-Bid meeting Date	05.09.2022 at 11.00am
3	Opening of Technical Bid Date	09.09.2022 at 11.00am
4	Opening of Financial Bid Date	After approval of Technical bid.

Note:- More details can be obtained through website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. Phone no: 08354-235042.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bagalkot

DIPR/BAGALKOTE/SHIRDIBAI/376/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/TRZ/SEE(O)/AEE1/22-23/5494-98 Date: 24.08.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against following enquiry Nos coming under Transmission Zone, KPTCL , Tumakuru on **Total Turnkey Basis**

1. Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TZ/TKR/66kV/LINE/Shylapura-Y N Hosakote/PTK/TL-06/Call-5 for the construction of balance works of 66kV SC line on DC Towers from existing 66/11kV Shylapura Sub Station to existing 66/11 kV Y.N.Hosakote Sub Station in existing corridor (Replacement of existing 11 kV Rabbit conductor by Coyote conductor) and Dismantling of the existing 66 kV line running between these two stations on RCC poles with Rabbit Conductor and Buy Back of Released Materials in Pavagada Taluk and Tumakuru District including Supply of all materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

2. Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TZ/TKR/66kV/LINE/Pavagada/TTK/TL-07/Call-4 for the construction of balance work of 66kV S/C Tap line on D/C towers from existing 66kV Pavagada-Parashurampura S/C line to existing 66/11kV Nagalamadike S/S in the existing corridor (Replacement of the existing 66kV Rabbit conductor by Coyote conductor) and Buy Back of released materials including supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (Including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

No. CEE/TRZ/SEE(O)/AEE3/22-23/5566-70 & 5571-75 Date: 25.08.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

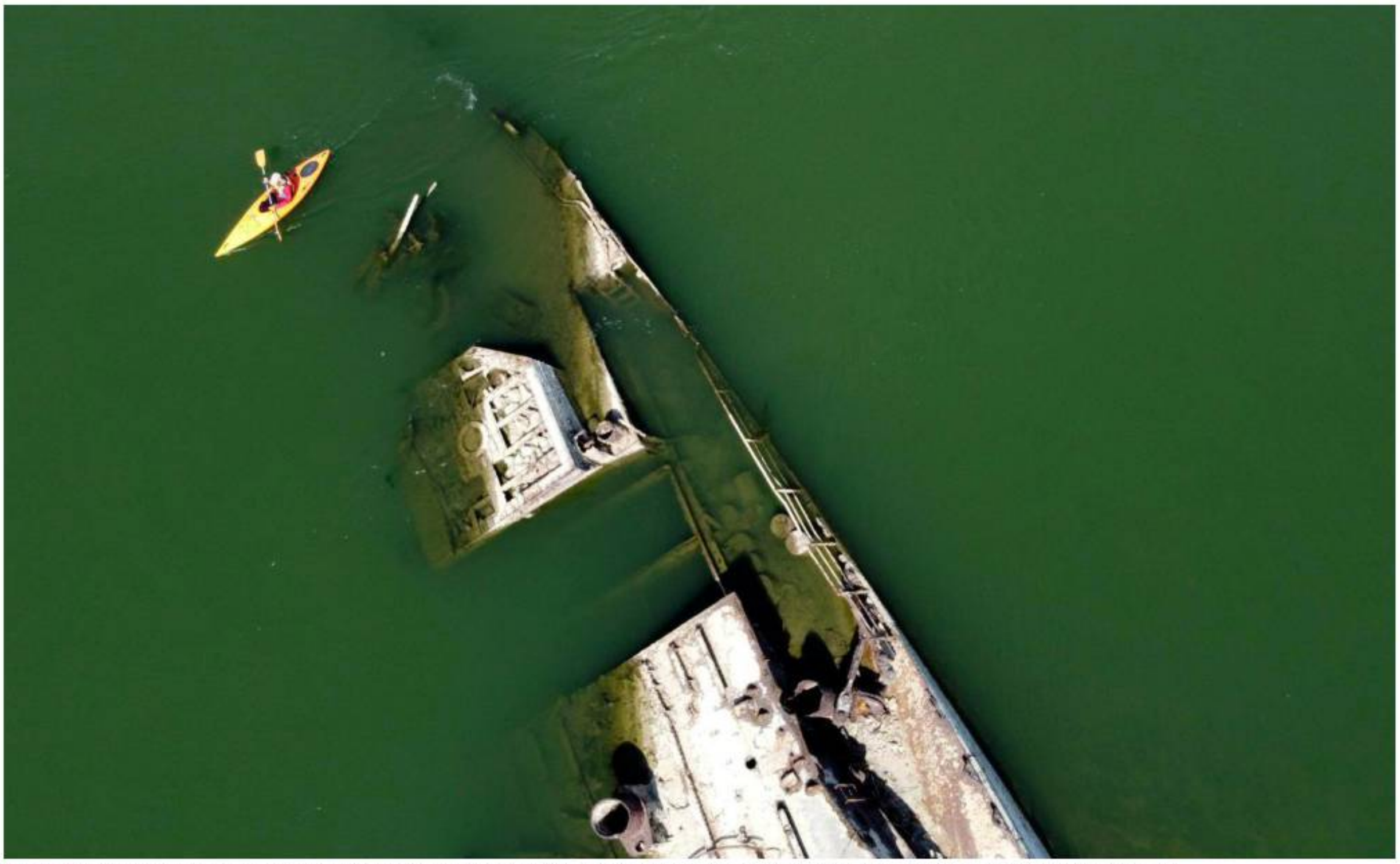
KPTCL invites bids for the following works :

1. Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/CEP-228/CALL-3 Date: 25.08.2022 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 110 kV and 66kV CTs of various Ratios required for replacement of age old and faulty CTs at various Sub-Station pertaining to Tumakuru and Davangere Circle coming under Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

2. Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/CEP-225/CALL-4 Date: 25.08.2022 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 220 kV Control and Relay Panels required for replacement of age old C&R panels in various 220kV receiving station coming under Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-Procurement portal can be obtained by logging into E-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E-Procurement-KPTCL" on or after **01.09.2022** the other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Siddaganga Complex, B.H.Road, Tumakuru-572102.



Bringing up: A kayaker paddles by the wreckage of a Second World War German warship in the Danube river near Prahovo in Serbia. The hulks of dozens of such ships have been exposed in the river due to the drought. • AP

Dry and dusty: A farmer drives a tractor amid a cloud of dust, as he works in a field during a drought in Blecourt, France. • REUTERS

Low levels: The water level at the Beacons Reservoir lies low during the current heat wave in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. • GETTY IMAGES

Dredged-up memories: Italian Army men remove a Second World War bomb that was discovered in the dry Po river in Borgo Virgilio, Italy. • REUTERS

History brims: The remains of the royal site of the La Isabela bathhouse emerge from the low waters of the Buendia reservoir in Sacedon, Spain. • REUTERS

Uneven keel: Boats are seen on the dry bed of Doubs river on the border with France in Les Brenets, Switzerland. • REUTERS

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, AUG. 28	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:33
RISE	06:49 SET 19:28
MONDAY, AUG. 29	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:32
RISE	07:38 SET 20:05
TUESDAY, AUG. 30	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:32
RISE	08:26 SET 20:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	22
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable and humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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Rain fury: The newly built NHAI toll booth at Inorapalya on the Bengaluru-Mysuru road is submerged after the Inorapalya lake overflowed on Saturday; water from the swollen Kanminike lake flooded the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru road, causing traffic jams. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Traffic on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway disrupted for hours

Diversion will be in place till August 29

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Traffic movement on the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was disrupted for hours on Saturday after low-lying areas of the highway were inundated with rain water at multiple locations. Police say traffic flow – which was in higher volumes due to the weekend – was affected from 5 a.m. and the impact continued till afternoon.

Massive flooding off the Bengaluru-Mysuru road after the Inorapalya lake breached the banks on Saturday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

At Kumbalgod, Kaniminke lake overflowed, inundating the service road. This resulted in the traffic piling up for miles. At Inorupalya, the newly built toll gates were seen flooded with the rainwater disrupting traffic flow. At Channapatna, Ramammankere breached its bund and flooded the highway roads. As the vehicles piled up for miles, police diverted the traffic. Motorists going from Bengaluru towards Mandya were asked to take Magadi Road or take Bengaluru-Hassan Highway to reach Kunigal, from there travel towards Mandya. Motorists coming from Mysuru Road were asked to reach Kanakapura Road from Malavalli or take Kunigal route to reach Bengaluru.

Superintendent of Police of Ramangaram K. Sanotsh Babu told *The Hindu* that traffic diversion will be in place till Monday. "This region received incessant rain continuously for a week. On Saturday, weekend traffic moving from Bengaluru and moving towards Mysuru was stuck after rain water flooded the service lanes of the highway at multiple locations. We had to impose the traffic diversion to ease the traffic flow and the diversion will be in place till Monday. We have requested Google to show the diversion map for the benefit of the motorists and also will place signages at the important junctions."

The IMD on Saturday forecasted a generally cloudy sky. Few spells of light to moderate Rain or thundershowers are very likely in Bengaluru with maximum and minimum temperatures very likely to be around 27 and 20 degrees Celsius respectively for another 24 hours. Mr. Babu said that the authorities are also contemplating opening the bypass in Bidadi and bypass between Ramanagara and Channapanta to lessen the congestion on the road if situations like flooding repeats. "At present, the road works are in progress between Ramanagara and Channapatna. The NHAI will do the safety audit and further decisions will be taken on allowing the traffic," said the official.

Heavy rainfall and lakes breaching bunds affected villages in Ramanagaram and Channapatna. Agricultural lands flooded with rain water. After Thittamaranahalli breached its bund, water entered around 30 homes in the area and residents were shifted to other places. In Gandhi Grama, rain water entered around 20 houses. The breach of Honganuru Lake resulted in the main road in the area.

Never had such a harrowing experience, say commuters

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bengaluru residents woke up to inundated roads on Saturday morning as heavy rains, accompanied by thunderstorms, pounded various parts of the city through the night.

Traffic movement was disrupted on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway between Kengeri and Kumbalagod after Kanmanike lake overflowed on Saturday morning. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Traffic movement was disrupted on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway between Kengeri and Kumbalagod after Kanmanike lake overflowed on Saturday morning. Traffic police officials said hundreds of passengers travelling between Mysuru and Bengaluru were stuck in traffic for more than four hours before civic agencies cleared the waterlogged road.

Vehicle users taking Mysuru road route had a difficult time. Those travelling from Bengaluru to Mysuru, Hassan, Kodagu and Mandya were stuck in the traffic for a long time on Saturday morning.

Belliappa K.V., a resident of the city who was traveling to Kodagu, was stuck on Mysuru Road near Kumbalgod for more than three hours. "I was on the way to Gonikoppal from Bengaluru. As usual, I started from my home in Banaswadi at 5 a.m., but was stuck in the traffic on Mysuru road for more than three hours. This is the first time I have been stuck in traffic so early in the morning. I usually took this route. This is the first time I saw flooding on the roads."

A farmer from Inorupalya in Bengaluru-Mysuru road blamed the expressway construction for the water overflow from the nearby lakes. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Nagaraju, said, "The place has turned into a lake and is creating great inconvenience to farmers and others. The road is ruined and we cannot even reach our houses. First, one engineer built the toll booth at a height. Then another engineer came and lowered the level. Now, it is filled with water and there is no system for water to drain off." The bridge connecting Inorupalya has been damaged due to the heavy flooding at the village, according to residents. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru city recorded 21.1 mm of rainfall, while Bengaluru International Airport recorded 30.4 mm of rains and HAL Airport recorded 65.9 of rainfall till 8.30 am on Saturday.

Bengaluru has so far received 184.4 mm of rainfall in August. More rainfall has been forecast for BBMP areas.

Meanwhile, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP's) control room did not receive many rain-related calls on Friday night and Saturday morning, except for flooded roads in Shanthinagar and Bilekahalli. Control room officials said one tree fall incident had been reported from Ejipura and there was no rain-related damage in the city.

Buses ply on Bengaluru-Mysuru road despite rain effect

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

KSRTC buses between Mysuru and Bengaluru operated on the highway on Saturday even as a number of commuters in private vehicles preferred an alternative route to avoid the traffic snarls near Kumbalgod in Bengaluru where the highway was flooded. KSRTC's Divisional Controller in Mysuru, Ashok Kumar, said there was no diversion of buses that left for Bengaluru from Mysuru.

However, sources in KSRTC said the snarls near Bengaluru were cleared and the buses plied on the same highway.

Officials in Mandya district police control room said a few vehicles, including buses, were diverted from Maddur towards the Kanakapura highway in the morning for a few hours.

But, regular traffic was restored by evening.

Some commuters in private vehicles, who left Mysuru in the morning, were alerted about the snarls near Kumbalgodu and they chose a diversion towards either Kunigal or Kanakapura to reach Bengaluru.

Officials in Mysuru division of South Western Railways said there was no disruption of train services between Mysuru and Bengaluru.

THE HINDU
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NIMHANS holds workshop on prevention of substance use

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A workshop series on "Prevention of Psychoactive Substance Use" among youth was inaugurated on Saturday at the NIMHANS Center for Well-Being (NCWB).

The workshop series is being offered by the Substance Abuse Free Existence (SAFE) Services at NCWB. This workshop targeted youth stakeholders, such as college teachers and administrators, counsellors, well-being volunteers, personnel working with youth welfare organizations and mental health professionals.

Speaking at the inauguration, NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy emphasised that substance use problems among young people need to be addressed from a life skills perspective.

Vivek Benegal, Professor of Psychiatry and Officer-In-charge of Center for Addiction Medicine, stressed the importance of recognising problems in children early, such as difficulties in communication and impulsive behavior, so that needed interventions can be provided. That way, the chances of experimenting with substances later on in life is significantly reduced, he said.

Aravind Raj, Additional Professor of Psychiatric Social Work and Coordinator of Well-Being Volunteers' Training Program, spoke about how the participants could carry forward these messages, and work towards reducing substance use among youth in the community.

All the participants were provided a link for accessing the Lives Fulfilled, Empowered (LiFE) Module, a digital learning resource which adopts a primary prevention and health promotion approach for helping youth to avoid substance use by leading a healthy lifestyle.

Seven held on charges of abduction, assault of private firm employee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Hanumanthnagar police on Saturday arrested seven persons, including two women, who allegedly abducted and assaulted a private firm employee with whom one of the accused had a live-in relationship.

The accused, Clara A.M., 26, an acupuncture specialist, who was separated from her husband, befriended the victim, identified as Mahadeva Prasad, 32, a private firm employee, on a dating app six months ago.

After living together for a few days, the couple started fighting over trivial issues as Prasad started suspecting Clara of cheating him. In August first week, Prasad broke up with her and went to live separately. Enraged by this, Clara accused him of sharing private photos and videos with friends and relatives, ganged up with her estranged husband and friends and abducted Prasad in a car on August 17 on the pretext of inviting him for one last-time meeting, the police said.

The accused took him to a godown in Chamarajpet and assaulted and tortured him for several hours before he was warned and released.

The victim, approached the police, and filed a complaint, based on which the police arrested Clara and her husband, Madhu, his friends Santosh, wife Hemavathy, and friends Kiran, Ashwath Narayan and Manu. The police are now on the lookout for another person who is on the run. Efforts are on to track down the accused.

Rise in ridership but parking still an issue at Namma Metro stations

Parking spaces at Bengaluru's metro stations offer little comfort to commuters: some are ill-lit, others pothole-ridden, that only gets worse during the rains

While many metro stations do not even have designated parking spaces, those with such spaces have attracted criticism from users for lack of facilities and maintenance. •VIBHA RAO

VIBHA RAO
LEESHA K. NAIR
BENGALURU

Namma Metro ridership has reached new heights in recent times, winning patronage from sections of people who would otherwise rely on private transport, but last-mile connectivity remains an issue.

Adding to this, for those who do rely on their own vehicles to reach the stations, metro parking spaces have offered little comfort; some are ill-lit, others pothole-ridden, which gets worse during the rains.

"There's no difference between parking outside or inside the designated lots. We are paying a good sum, but we neither have proper facilities nor safety. I've been using this parking lot for nearly a year but there has been no improvement. The metro station is of an international standard, but when it comes to the parking lot, there's no order," says Yesudas, principal of an education institution, who was at Swami Vivekananda metro station.

While many metro stations do not even have designated parking spaces, those with such spaces have attracted criticism from users for a lack of facilities and maintenance, making them especially difficult to use during the rains, with some getting inundated, others not having enough cover for vehicles, and some with no concretisation, which means slushy pathways.

There have been contrasting views about the the fares too. "I think for two-wheelers, they have to reduce the amount to ₹20 from ₹30," said a traveller at Swami Vivekananda station.

According to commuters, proper monitoring to organise the space efficiently could be another step in improving its condition. Many have suggested the installation of security cameras as well.

"The parking area becomes very congested during the peak hours sometimes. But there are plenty of spaces left in between vehicles. We want someone to see that the vehicles are parked properly," says Bharat Kumar, contractor and a regular commuter at the Nagasandra metro station.

"Currently, BMRCL has no plans for the extension or expansion of the parking space near the operational metro stations. But, plans to improve the maintenance of the parking areas are under process," says Yashavanth Chavan, Chief PRO at BMRCL.

Woman booked for submitting fake certificates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Wilson Garden police have registered a case against the 42-year-old wife of a former BMTC employee for allegedly trying to secure a job under compassionate grounds using fake certificates.

Based on a complaint filed by K.M. Munikrishna, Divisional Security Inspector, the police booked Manjula Chandaragi of Dharward, charging her under cheating, forgery and fraud for further investigation.

Mr. Munikrishna said that Shivalli Y. Kallimani, a driver-cum-conductor of BMTC, died while on duty in July 2017.

His wife, Manjula, applied for a job on compassionate grounds and submitted certificates of SSLC and PUC from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, between the year 2010-12.

The vigilance department as per the rules approached Uttar Pradesh officials for cross-checking and found that Manjula had not appeared in high school examination in the institution and there were no records to support her claim.

Manjula is suspected to have bought the certificates to apply and cheat the corporation, which needed a detailed investigations, the officials said.

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FIR registered against seer of Chitradurga's Murugha Mutt

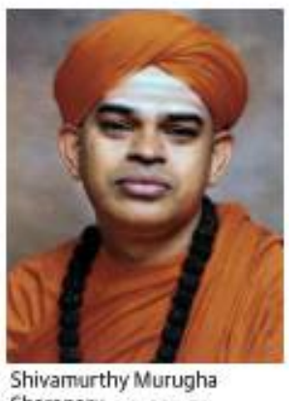
He has been accused of sexually harassing minor girls living in mutt hostel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A first information report (FIR) has been lodged against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer and chief of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, and four others on the charge of sexually harassing minor girls who are residents of the hostel run by the mutt.

Two girls, who are now sheltered at Odanadi Seva Samsthe, an NGO engaged in rescue and rehabilitation of sexually-exploited women and children in Mysuru, appeared before the Mysuru district Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on August 26 and made the statement detailing their alleged sexual harassment by the seer with the assistance of the hostel warden and three others.

Based on the directions of the CWC, the Legal and Probation Officer, Mysuru district Child Protection Unit, has lodged a complaint with the Nazarbad police station here. An FIR under various Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012, and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was filed late on Friday night. Meanwhile, the advisory committee of the mutt held a meeting on Saturday and termed the allegations "baseless" and a "conspiracy".



Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru • FILE PHOTO

Case transferred

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Mysuru city, Pradeep Gunti, told *The Hindu* on Saturday that the case had been transferred to Chitradurga based on the place of occurrence as cited in the complaint. "It has been transferred to Chitradurga with the permission of the court," he said.

According to the complaint, one victim underwent sexual harassment for the last three-and-a-half years while another was subjected to sexual harassment over the last one-and-a-half years.

According to Odanadi's founder Parashuram M. L., the victims, who were high school students, fled from the hostel to escape the sexual abuse and reached Bengaluru to lodge a complaint. When they were sent away by the police in Bengaluru, they learnt about Odanadi Seva Samsthe and reached Mysuru on Friday with the help of a woman.

After a counselling session by women counsellors at Odanadi, the girls opened up about their experiences at the mutt, said Saraswathi, a counsellor at Odanadi. Later, it was decided to produce the girls before the CWC, she added. "Producing them before the CWC was also necessary to protect the interests of other residents of the hostel," said Mr. Parashuram.

Mysuru district CWC members Savitha Kumari, Ashok, and E. Dhananjaya Yeliyur were present during the deposition by the girls. After recording the statement of the victims and issuing orders to the district Child Protection Unit to lodge a complaint with the police, the CWC directed that the victims be provided temporary shelter at Odanadi.

Support to victims

Ms. Saraswathi told reporters that the victims required psychological strength and Odanadi was providing them the necessary psycho-social support.

Political clout

Mr. Parashuram said the victims preferred to lodge a complaint in Mysuru with the help of Odanadi because they were convinced that the authorities in Chitradurga were under the influence of the seer and the mutt, which was visited by not only national and State-level political leaders, but also representatives of ruling and Opposition parties.

While claiming that a lot of pressure was brought upon them in the matter, Mr. Parashuram said a judicial probe should be conducted to bring to light any conspiracy in the episode.

Advisory committee alleges 'conspiracy'

Counter-complaint filed against administrator of the mutt S.K. Basavarajan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Following an FIR being against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, under the POCSO Act on charges of sexual harassment of minor girls, the advisory committee of the mutt held a meeting on Saturday and member N.B. Vishwanath has termed the allegation "baseless".

Meanwhile, a counter-complaint of sexual harassment has been filed against administrator of the mutt, S.K. Basavarajan, and his wife Soubhagya by a woman working for the educational institution run by the mutt.

'Harass the seer'

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting in Chitradurga on Saturday, Mr. Vishwanath termed the allegation as a "conspiracy" to harass the seer and accused Mr. Basavarajan of being behind it

Mr. Vishwanath said that after returning to the mutt after a break, Mr. Basavarajan was expecting full power in administration, but it was subject to conditions. He said that never before were such allegations made against the seer. The seer had always worked for the welfare and upliftment of women and children, he added.

Replying to a query, Mr. Vishwanath said that a team of advocates had met the seer and it had been decided to approach the court for anticipatory bail. "Any action in a hurry would hurt the devotees," he said.

The complaint against Mr. Basavarajan and his wife has been filed by the woman at Chitradurga Rural police station. The woman alleged that Mr. Basavarajan had tried to rape her and had threatened to kill her when she resisted. She also claimed that the two minor girls who have spoken against the seer had gone out of the mutt citing personal reasons. However, instead of reaching their homes, they had reached Cottonpet police station in Bengaluru. Without informing the concerned, Mr. Basavarajan had kept them "illegally" at his home, she claimed.

Inquiry sought

Several women's groups have, meanwhile, sought a thorough inquiry into the allegations.

Akhila Bharata Janawadi Mahila Sanghatane and All India Mahila Samskrutika Sanghatane have urged the authorities to investigate without bowing to political pressure, given the clout the mutt enjoys.

Statements of girls staying in hostel being recorded

Nearly 100 students reside there

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Following the complaint of sexual harassment against the seer of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, officials of the Department of Woman and Child Development have begun recording the statements of girl students residing in the hostel run by the mutt.

On Saturday, the officials visited the hostel on the mutt premises, checked the attendance sheet, and then questioned the students who returned to the hostel after their morning classes. As per sources, the statements of all the students were recorded separately.

Nearly 100 students of high school, PU, and degree courses, from the districts of Chitradurga, Davangere, and various districts of North Karnataka reside in the hostel. Several parents reached Chitradurga to take their children home and they have been told that they would be allowed to go home after recording their statements.

Girls shifted

Meanwhile, the two girls who had complained of sexual harassment, were also shifted to Chitradurga from Odanadi Seva Samsthe on Saturday. They were escorted by officials from Mysuru District Child Protection Unit, officials from the juvenile police wing as well as counsellors from Odanadi for recording statement and other formalities.

'Strengthen road safety mechanisms at district and taluk levels'

Health Vision report emphasises need for defined action plans; Karnataka ranks fourth in the country in number of fatal road crashes

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Recommending a safe-systems approach for road safety in Karnataka, the State's Health Vision report, 2021, has emphasised the need for defined action plans to achieve the 50% reduction of deaths as per the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and global road safety targets. Karnataka ranks fourth in the country for the number of fatal road crashes.

The report, which was released early this week, has noted that road traffic injuries (RTIs) and deaths have been increasing at an alarming pace in Karnataka. "After adjusting for underreporting for the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) data, it is estimated that nearly 13,000 deaths, 4,00,000 severe RTIs and nearly 1,00,00,000 mild injuries occurred in Karnataka in 2019," stated the report.

Mangled remains of a vehicle after an accident near Kalambella in Tumakuru district. • FILE PHOTO

Productive population

Former director of NIMHANS G. Gururaj, who is the chairman of the Karnataka Health Vision Group as well as the committee on 'Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion', told *The Hindu* on Saturday that RTIs occur predominantly in males in the age group of 15 to 45 years, in economically productive populations and in the poor and middle-income sections of the society.

"RTIs place a huge burden on the health systems for care and rehabilitation services for the affected persons. Nearly 65% of road deaths in Karnataka occurred in the age group of 18 to 44 years and among the younger and productive sections of the population. Nearly 80% of crashes and 88% of deaths occur in the rural parts of the State indicating the need for strengthening road safety mechanisms at district and taluka levels," he asserted.

Studies undertaken by the WHO collaborating Centre at NIMHANS clearly indicate that three out of four deaths and injuries are among pedestrians, two wheeler riders and pillions and bicyclists.

Five pillars of road safety

Dr. Gururaj said the Vision Report has recommended that the five pillars of road safety focusing on road safety management, safe road infrastructure, safe vehicles and improving road user behaviour along with post-crash care should be implemented in all seriousness to achieve success in road safety in the State.

"The new thinking is a safe systems approach. We have been blaming the RTI victims and saying people are responsible for the accidents. But it is everyone's responsibility including the road contractors, vehicle manufacturers as well as people. All should be involved in designing road safety with a goal to minimise road crashes and prevent death and disability," he said.

Recommendations

Recommending that the Karnataka Road Safety Authority be strengthened with adequate manpower, technology and funding, the Vision Report stated that the Authority and the Karnataka Road Safety Policy were notified in 2015 with a vision to achieve a safe road environment for reducing road crashes by 25% and fatalities by 30% by the year 2030. However, this goal is yet to be realised, the report stated.

"Under the road safety policy, establishing a multi-road safety lead agency at the state and district levels, strengthening road crash database system, developing a safe road infrastructure, regular road safety audits, increasing road safety awareness, enhancing enforcement levels, timely medical services and increased financial protection for survivors have been proposed. However several implementation delays have halted the progress. The condition of roads are still at a very high risk level with most of the roads not even achieving a three star rating and hazard mapping is still in continuation," the report pointed out.

Strict enforcement

"Nine districts of the State have identified 80 accident-prone areas. The safety of the vehicles that are available in the State are to be assessed even though the national ratings indicate a poor performance. The prevalence of helmet use, seat belt use, child restraint use remain at moderate levels (higher in urban central areas) while drunk-driving, speeding, use of mobile phone and poor pedestrian road safety behaviours are on the increase. These legislations should be strictly enforced," the report said.

Protesters seek justice for Bilkis Bano

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A large number of workers, students, lawyers, artistes and others from across the State gathered at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday seeking justice for Bilkis Bano, victim of gang rape.

The protesters held placards and raised slogans against the BJP government at the Centre and in Gujarat. They condemned remission of sentence of those involved in the crime.

The Gujarat government on August 15 had released all the 11 convicts under its remission policy after the convicts had served several years in jail. These 11 were convicted of gang raping Bilkis Bano and killing seven members of her family during the Gujrat riots in 2002. Speaking during the protest, K.S. Vimala, State vice president of All India Democratic Women's Association, regretted that rapists were welcomed back as if they were war-heroes.

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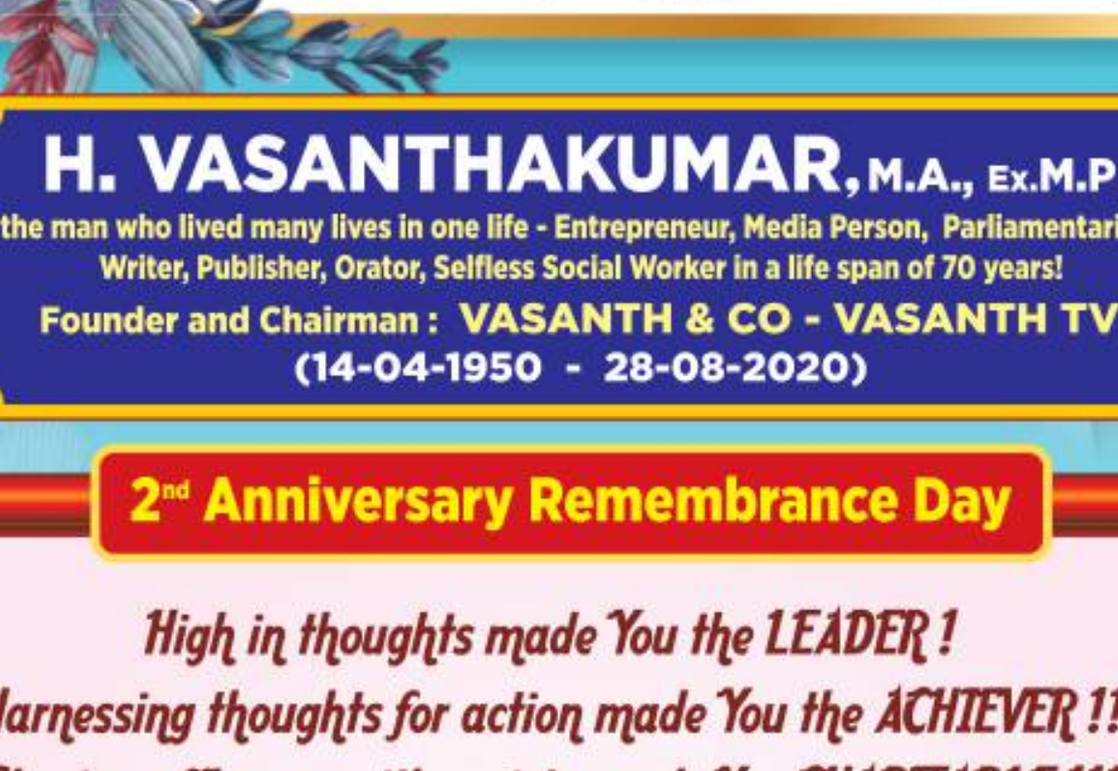

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MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, Caste No Bar, 35yrs, Ph.D, Asst. Prof. in Govt College, Puducherry, seeks compatible Groom age 33-37. Ct: 9500333303

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 200cr, 30/ 160, Good looking, B.Arch, Famous Construction Business in Chennai. Affluent Family – Seeks groom – Business / Eng / India / Abroad – 8939012419

SENGUNTHAR MUDALIYAR : Doctor Girl, Age 30, Studying MS – OG. Seeks Suitable Groom in same profession and community. Call 98940 81894.

ADIDRAVIDAR SC 34/165 MCA Salary 50K PM Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 94455 07220

DKV 30/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. 9940507235

TAMIL YADAVA CNB–A Business Family From Ooty seeks Bride Groom for their daughter 24 years very fair Bachelor in Fashion Designing Sadayam–Kumbam. Business/Professional Family From Yadava/Pillai/Mudaliar. CT: 9443115000.

A Very well established Kongu Vellalar Goundar family in Tirupur seeking a groom in the same community for their only Daughter aged 28 yrs Working at a Top Tier Investment Bank based in the UK. We are looking for a groom based in US/UK aged below 32. Contact Mob: 98430-21111, 94430-40909. Mail id: smvenkat1966@gmail.com

HINDU, TAMIL 37Y Govt Doctor MD Gynecology CNB prefer Doctor/ Engineer/ Businessman Ct. 9514518555.

HINDU NADAR Fair Bride 164cm 27year BE/MS Seeks Engineer Groom Working in Chennai /Bangalore. 9381044905

HINDU, SC –Adi Dravida, Female, age 29, height 5ft 7inch B.E/MBA, Work: Accenture, Ph: 9444891091

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper mid Clas Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionally Qualified Groom 8220757159

SAIVA PILLAI 30/165/B.Tech MBA Girl Thiruvathirai Employed in MNC, Chennai. Ct 044-48041602 / 9643003640

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS,MD Final yr,Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs. Engineer/Business/Doctor.Ct: 9345855735

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI, 26 B.E Kattai Working in Leading MNC Co. Reputed Business Family Seeks Alliance for His Daughter Call 98400 93322

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR,ELITE Family Sep 91/165 PG,Working HR MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom. SubCaste Ok 9176780777

HINDU NADAR B.Com, MBA 26 years 170CMWhite, Salary 40000/– CHENNAI Contact: 8148080800

HINDU SC, 36, Girl Height 160 cm M.A, Chennai, Seeks Suitable same caste Groom. 7448689150 / 9444796980

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA pillai 25/167cm Star Karthigai Mac now pursuing PhD girl. Father and Mother are govt servants. Seeks a compatible match preferably working in govt or public sector from the same community. Ct 9443614396, 7598201865

HINDU/SC.AD, SIMMAN/NAGAM(27/5'2") MCA, TA @ Infosys, 10L/p.a. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840368908

READY/ REDDIAR, 1995 born/ 158cm, M.Tech, working in MNC Bangalore seeks employed Groom from decent family with good background and networth. Ct: 9597327192

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Doctors seek Suitable Groom for Fair Doctor Girl Aged 23 Respond dmaj0499@gmail.com

TAMIL VISWAKARMA /40 /150 Fair Thiruvonam/ ME(CSE) seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

TAMIL

ELITE BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Slim, fair, tall, Beautiful 29 years old, Lawyer, from an affluent Business family based in Chennai, willing to relocate, looking for a well qualified Brahmin Tamil Iyer Bride Groom preferably from affluent business family.
Call/whatsapp 98846 02555

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28 / 23, Ht 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified boys of age below 30 in job or business. Marriage both at a stage.Contact : 96265 15511

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

Hindu Devendrakula vellalar 164cm DOB-30/11/1994 Swathi Thulam MBBS.,MS(ENT) Seeks suitable Doctor / Group 1 officer groom from same community 6381747413 / 8838903845

HINDU NADAR Girl, 28/5ft 5inch wheatish M.Tech(IIT), HCL Chennai, 12Lpa, seeks Software professional, Mob : 9489039754

HINDU NADAR 32/154BE MBA SWE IAM cyber security Accenture UK Simmam Pooram suitable Groom 9442126375

ASST. PROF. Physics, Tuluva Vellala Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM: 7550245659

BRAHMIN, 23YRS, Haritham Hastham M.Com(Fyl) Seeks boy upto 29 in Chennai/around Ct:9444331919,044-24483448

ASTASHASRAM, IYER, Revathi, Oct.1972, B.Sc., Seeks well educated / settled 1st Marriage Iyer Groom only. BHP : sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

TELUGU

BALIJA 27/163 Pretty Professional girl seeks well settled professional groom. Caste no bar.Ct: 7200441925

NAIDU 25/161,FAIR, Beautiful,CA,Financial Analyst,MNC,720000.PM, Affluent Fmly,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

NAIDU 44/UNMARRIED, MCA/MNC seeks suitable groom. Ph: 9087236964/srikrishna.dr@gmail.com

ALLIANCE FOR Balija Girl MPhil/ 26/ 162/ Fair From Well Educated, Professional, Good Family, Chennai Based. Ct: 98841 29250

NAIDU (CNB) : 25/165,V.Fair & Beautiful, Post Graduate (UK),Jewellery Business, Textile Export and Import, Chennai, Ille Family, Seeks Groom Business / Abroad – 7305810258

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
A big business family from Chennai Wants Bride Groom for their Daughter, Age:28, Naidu, Dhanusu, Moolam, 2nd Patham, Working in Germany BE,MS (Germany) with good background. Groom should be below 30yrs Businessman or working Professional Ok. based at Chennai or anywhere at SouthIndia Ok.
Ct : 0-98410 71701

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH.

US SETTLED Vishwakarma groom DOB 15-09-1984 seeks alliance from Malayali vishwakarma community. contact no.9526463511

COSMOPOLITAN

Hindu Satvik- Unmarried Boy, Educated family, 1993 Born, 5 ft. 10 inch, MBA working in a MNC Hyderabad, fluent in Hindi, English & Telugu seeks suitable Bride. Ph: 9182486096

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son Narayanan.H, aged (34 years, residing in (Bangalore), height (5ft 11inch), (B.TECH. L.L.B) graduate, (Hindu), (Brahmin. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. (Same caste/ caste no bar). Should be between 29 and 33 years. Contact with Horoscope details 9442996960 or muthulaxmi2010@gmail.com

CANADA 89 /167 MS–US SWE KV Gounder CNB HNW Chennai Horos NP/ Int Mental MC Ct: 9363635101

HINDU TAMIL 28/5ft 10inch BBA LLB, GM of Sportswear co, Bangalore 22L/ PA Own house Seeks well qualified girl caste/language no bar, 6366467911

ENGINEER, SWEDEN, Mtech; Ms. rich 184, Nv,Uthiradam,seeking Hindu Mudaliyar Pillai or similar bride ct 9884545515

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266099

RC CHRISTIAN, 1973/165cm, M.A., M.B.A., Govt. 90K/PM Divorce Seeks Suitable Bride, CNB. Ph: 8148842983

PROFESSIONAL, AUDITOR, working in Chennai aged 54year, legally divorced Seeks well qualified women widow orDivorcee aged 40-50 Ct:8667387588

✔ **HINDU MALE Divorcee MCA 46 Software Architect MNC, Seeks bride below 39 years. Caste no bar 6383577697 9445953399**

CSI NADAR ME Mech Engineer, 28/ 173, working in Canada & have PR, WhatsApp# 9790841966

TAMIL IYER BE,MBA Athreya gothram, 36 years 5ft 7" Bangalore MNC 17 LPA seeks graduate girl from good family.Contact: 8277346685 vsrinivasan425@gmail.com

HINDU BOY 31/BE/Software Engr/Ayilam–Katagam / Sc– Caste No Bar/Bangalore settled. Seeks Bride from educated and well settled family. Contact No 9845401461.

DOCTOR RADIOLOGIST, Hindu Pillai BC, 31, tall fair affluent family seeks Doctor bride BC/MBC. 9865167703

NAIDU 34, Handsome, B.Tech, Business, Divorcee, Seeks Beautiful Bride Below 30 yrs. Unmarried / Widow. Without Issues. CNB Ct: 9841010419

MBA, 43 yrs/167, Handsome, Manager MNC, Brahmin, lives in Chennai. Seeks Tamil/Kannada bride from a decent, educated family. Contact 73387 39784

ADIDRAVIDAR SC 29/170 Fair BE (EEE) Hyundi Motors Salary 30K PM Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 94455 07220

SENGUNTHAR KETTAI 36/165, M.Tech (Ph.D), Asst. Prof.(HOD) Pvt. Engg. College, Pondicherry, seeks bride age 28 to 35yrs. Cont:9442557578

INTERCASTE BRAHMIN–DEVAR brilliant boy 27/162–Erode– SWE–3@ Juniper Networks Bgl.14 Lacs/pa. seeks Tamil Vegetarian girls only ct: baluakhi@gmail.com 9442819001

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

TAMIL HINDU / Christian / AD / PR Maham Simham handsome 33 years M.Tech working in a Multinational software company. Well to do family from Chidambaram and settled at Chennai. Type I diabetic and in control. Suitable good looking bride solicited with details. Caste no bar. email id: armanojsurya@gmail.com

GAVARA NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Uthiratathi, Bank Manager, Seeks Bride From South Tamilnadu. 9443172955

TAMIL YADAVA CNB–A Business Family from Ooty seeks Bride for their son 29 years MBA Family Business Thiruvonam–Magaram From Business/ Professional Family From Yadava/ Pillai/Mudaliar. CT: 9443115000,

NAIDU ANUSHAM No Dosham, 32/5'10, BE, MS (USA), Project Manager in Reputed Co. in Chennai.(Will be moving to Blore in October), only son, well settled., Seeks Educated girl from upper middle family, CasteNoBar. 9841152054, 9840961569

HINDU BERI Chetty Fair 28/178 working in Australia 75000 AuD. Seeks Bride to Settle in Australia. Sub Caste ok. Ct : 9841084538

HINDU MUDALIAR Civil Engineer Working in Abu Dhabi Only Son 34yrs 167cms 36 Lakhs Per Annum Seeks Suitable Bride Caste no bar.Ct: 9003575687

HINDU SC AD 33/172/ Star Rohini Ph.D Chemistry, CSIR RA seeks suitable Bride (Age: 26–31) employed. Ct: 9994153134, 9840490594

WIDOWER DOCTOR 59, seeks life partner from widow, divorcee & spinster. E-mail: selvajothi1962@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, 32 /175cm, Hastham,Fair, Handsome, well qualified, working in Dubai from Good family seeks suitable good looking Bride from good family background. 98430 52680

CHETTIAR REMARRIAGE 36/MBBS MS 5.8 Own hospital Ch seeks 1st Marriage girl only CNB Ct Geetham 9884858014

REDDY REMARRIAGE 37 BCom MBA 6.2 Tiruvonam Chennai seeks educated girl CNB Ct Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL

PARTNER FOR myself, 35, 5ft 11inch, B.E. (College Of Engineering Guindy), IT professional in Chennai. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian). I have no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. I write freelance movie reviews as a hobby. My Contact 9003213197, Contact of Parents 9600174846

HINDU NADAR 28,180cm, BE/MS Income Rs.6,00,000/– USA Seeks Suitable Bride KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

CHENNAI KIND fair innoc divorcee 39yrs GM Sports. Dr Family. Cen. Govt 2L/mth. Edu simple girl 9884171419

SC/HINDU 29/175CM software professional in Australia.seeks alliance.CNB, Ct:9884229468,9150546681

HINDU Paraiyar 35/165 cm Miruga Sirisham Mithunam ME Asst. Prof. Engineering College Ct : 8778929319.

TAMIL YADAVA: 27/(165cm). B.Tech, Data Scientist @ IT–MNC(chennai), Salary 22 LPA, Residing own flat in chennai. Seeks working bride (Professional) from well Educated and Cultured Family.Ct:9840494566

✔ **WANTED: IYER / IYENGAR / Graduate / Employed girl between age 24–29 yrs for Groom – Adilya, Poorattadhi, Vadhula gothram, Vadakalai Iyengar, born August 1992, age 30 years, working as specialist in Societe Generale GSC earning 14 lakhs per annum.Contact number: 9444971903 Email: subha1063@gmail.com**

HINDU VELLALA Pillai / Mudaliar Thiruvonam, 29 yrs/ 177CM, M.E., Handsome, BOB–Nationalised Bank Officer Seeks Suitable Bride Central /State /Govt Staff/ Govt Schools / Colleges, Sub Caste No Bar. Ct:6374741850 / 9715191579

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks educated Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TAMIL CHETTIAR 39/176 fair well-settled Ch., ME Str Mngr, 21LPA seeks suitable girl Caste no bar Ct: 9994654546.

PILLAI MODLAM 32/177, BE, MBA, SWE, MNC 7.3 LPA Chennai Seeks Employed, Hindu, CNB. 96001 47451

IYER BOY Vadamal 33yrs 177cm. Income 5L P/A Seeks Good Looking Suitable Bride. Subsect No Bar. 9840843422

VELAMA BALIJA SWE USA 33 Vaga Propertied Chennai Seeks employed Bride Caste No Bar 9841773117/ 9884252871

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 40/170 Fair Thiruvonam ACA ACMA/ MNC /70,000 seeks same Caste Bride 9486320982

CASTE NO Bar 48 years Boy Good Character Seeking Bride wanted. Contact: 9940075698

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras : Microelectronics & VLSI Design), Principal Design Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, Eggetarian, Star:Kettai, seeks well educated, unmarried, suitable bride (30–34 yrs). Caste No Bar. Veg/Eggetarian preferred. Ct: 9840117920

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks educated Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TAMIL CHETTIAR 39/176 fair well-settled Ch., ME Str Mngr, 21LPA seeks suitable girl Caste no bar Ct: 9994654546.

PILLAI MODLAM 32/177, BE, MBA, SWE, MNC 7.3 LPA Chennai Seeks Employed, Hindu, CNB. 96001 47451

IYER BOY Vadamal 33yrs 177cm. Income 5L P/A Seeks Good Looking Suitable Bride. Subsect No Bar. 9840843422

VELAMA BALIJA SWE USA 33 Vaga Propertied Chennai Seeks employed Bride Caste No Bar 9841773117/ 9884252871

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AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt. Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 7904550883

B.E. NETWORK Engineer 38yrs Clean habits OBC Intercaste Parentage, Owning flat in Chennai Seeks graduate bride 30–35yrs. No Caste bar with in OBC. Ct– 9444222357, 9444475673

WIDOWER 65 Wants Life Companion. Seeks NRI, Doctors, Business Woman, Widows, Divorcee. Age & Religion No Bar. 8778447578.

IYER, 41 Years, Self Employed Chartered Accountant in Erode. Having own house and earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

TAMIL IYER, 33 years, Swathi, Naithruva Kashyapa Gothram, 5 feet, 10 inches, B.E. M.S. Ph.D (Biotech), Employed as a Research Scientist in Melbourne. Requires a PG–qualified girl from India or abroad. Iyengar, Madhava, or Telugu brahmin girls are also welcome. Contact: +64 211677071, Email: rammuthu893@gmail.com

BRAHMIN32/179MS USA/H1B/140 Koundinya Vadama Magham Simha Seeks Brahmin bride MS USA employed 9500118943

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc/MCA/MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

IYER 41YRS 5'7" Bharathwajam Uthirattathi MCA PGDBA, IT Chennai 13 lacs/pa Legal Divorce Seeks unmarried/divorcee girl Preferably employed subsect nobar 9444168900

TAMIL

ASTASHASRAM KARTHIGAI 53 MBA M.S, well settled Seeks educated 1st Marriage any Iyer brides only. BHP : sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

IYER VADAMA Athreya Thiruvathirai Unmarried 58yrs SmartHealthy Self-Employment Chennai Elec. 40k PM. Seeks Btw 50Yrs Unmarried/Widow Brahmin or Vegetarian Open Minded Without AnyExpectation GoodFamily 9840846524

BRIDES WANTED
Pillai (Caste no bar) 26/175, Handsome, MBA, LLM (Corporate & Finance Law), Business, Having Own Famous Resort, Training Academy & Overseas placement, Rice Export, Real Estate Business, Chennai, Elite Family. Only Son- Seeks Bride. Good Looking & Decent Background
89250 19776

BRIDE WANTED
A High Profile, Well - Established (Business) Family in Chennai, Looking for a Beautiful, Tall, Cultured Girl for their Tall, Suave, Humble and Caring 29 Year Old Son.
secretarytanya410@gmail.com
80726 23211

Hindu Nadar 26/180cm B.Tech,SBI, Dy.Mngr Rs1.25/pm Mithunam /Punarpoosham seeks bride from empld / unempld graduate bride. Ct:9443419510

31 / 164 cm M.E., Assistant Professor Chennai.Divorcee seeks suitable bride unmarried/divorcee-no issue. Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar/ Naidu/ prof. Ct: 94456 89306 / 94430 52596

TIRUNELVELI Saiva Pillai 29.170cms B.Tech MS(France), Star Maham, lives in Coimbatore, looking family Engg Business. Father is an Industrialist. Expecting for a compatible match from the same community. CT: 9944972283 / 9944972281.

HINDU TAMIL Chettiar from Nagercoil 30/172/B.E. working in I.T. Company, Anusham nakshathram. Sudha Jathakam seeks employed brides with Sudha Jathakam. Caste no bar. Mob: 94423 04415, 86088 40417, 99472 64038

TELUGU

Mala Christian Govt Central University Professor, Male 40 Yrs 5'7 seek Bride + -30y. 9885757388/ 9494964312.

AGE 42, MCA, MBA,Sadhayam,Kumba Rasi,Fair Software engineer Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste no bar. 7904010930

Devangar Chettiar, Chennai. MDS Graduate, 12 LPA, Divorced, Age: 37, Ashwini, seeks only Never Married Bride with any Degree. Contact: 9444120328.

KANNI UTHIRAM 35/178 BCA, LLB Reputed Co Chennai, Divorcee seeks Unmarried Bride, Caste No Bar. 8682080448

REDDY 1991, 171cm, Very Fair, Uttara Phalguni, NRI, Graduated from Top US and UK Universities, in Senior Position at Leading Multinational Company in US. Established family. Speaks English, Telugu and Tamil. Girl should have studied in US and prepared to work and settle in Boston, US. Full details with Photo and Family Background to WhatsApp: +91 9444899696

WANTED TELUGU Balija Bride Sub caste no bar Boy 31 years Well qualified & settled Contact no 9840099917

NAIDU 30/180,VERY Handsome, B.E,MS, SWE,MNC,USA,150000.USD.PA, Affluent Family, CNB, 7299576644, 7299576666

TELUGU VANNAR, 1984, MBA, Kanni, Astham, Manager in MNC. 20 Lac.PA, Any Telugu. Contact : 82480 12326

KAMMA NAIDU Swathi 37 /172/BE Widower with 7yr old son business seeks divorcee with no children from same caste. Mail: jeyaraj1954@gmail.com

TELUGU

Naidu MDS Girl (28),fair and slim, higher middle class, Cbe base. Seeks PG qualified Medical/ Dental/Engineering Graduates.
Whatsapp
94423 51489

NAIDU Balija
Pooram, 25 / 5'4"
Chartered Accountant
MNC Chennai
Well settled family seeks:
Professionally qualified / business GROOM from an affluent family
+91 94443 97942
groominvited@gmail.com

NAIDU Balija / Pooradam, 24/160, PG upper Mid-Class seeks Prof. Qualified Groom Sub-sect no Bar. 96660 77584

URDU

SMU GIRL Chennai, Hijabi, Fair 29/ 155, M.Phil, Counselor Special Needs School, seeks suitable, professionally qualified, settled groom. WhatsApp 9884587114, 9962625140, hameed.shaad2020@gmail.com

SMU GIRL 30/157, Fair, M.Com M.Phil, Asst.Prof. Chennai Seeks Qualified Professional Groom. Ct:9445678086

SM URDU 30/168/MD practicing Doctor, Chennai well settled family seeks alliance from PG or pursuing PG Doctors age 31-35 years Ct 9841524064

TAMIL

28/ 5ft 7 inch Brahmin girl, IIT Delhi, working with MNC. Wanted IIT,IIM graduate, IAS/IPS/IFS. M-9425675264

HINDU PILLAI Saivavellalar, Masham barani 24/160cm TCS Chennai 4.5L PA Seeks Vegetarian Groom 9444482270.

BRAHMIN GIRL 35, B.com. Looking for a boy with any degree. Age between 35-45. With any Job. 72000 31520

BRAHMIN
BUSINESS / AFFLUENT FAMILY
A Corporate and Big Business Brahmin Family in South India invites alliance for their daughter 29/165 (who has finished masters from top class university). Matching from Big Business House or Corporate Group.
The Boy should be tall, well educated from big business family / corporate group
nichiyam21@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED
VANNIAKULA KSHATRIAR
Wheatish - Ht.172cm – Good Looking – 24 Years – MBA Graduate – Working In MNC. Seeks Groom from a Good Family Background
Ct: 98410 26448

THULUVA Vellala, Pooradam -1987, BA.,BL.(Hon) M.L., employed at MNC Chennai seeks Employed Educated, Good Looking Groom. Ct: 9381048682

TAMIL MUSLIM, 31/165cm, Wheatish B.E MBA S/W.Engineer,chennai seeks Suitable Educated Groom 9940063543

TAMIL Yadava 26/165, Pooradam MS abroad seeks well Educated Groom preferably from Europe. 95000 33921

TELUGU

KRITHIGAI, 39/159CM – M.Com, B.Ed Veg Bride, Seeks Educated, Employed groom, Caste Nobar. Ct: 8056012713

REDDIAR 1993 born 170cms BE. ECE working in MNC Bangalore CTC 20 lacs per Annum. Seeks well placed Groom. Contact: 9843046775

DIVORCEE

IYER DIVORCEE Boy Vadoolam Thiruvonam 47/168 Director IT MNC Seeks Iyer / Iyengar Graduate Girl Divorcee / Widow without Issues 9841942915

DIVORCEE IYENGAR Kowsika Sravana 46yr MBA IT Sales 13L/Annum Seek MiddleClass Girl 9363358127, 9884552891

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Radiology 35 years Hindu Tamil SC Pondicherry seeks Doctor Girl contact. 7708756395

29YR, DOCTOR, 5ft 11inch, Hindu Vishwakarma/vokkaliga, Delhi, looking for well educated, home loving kannada/tamil bride (Caste no bar) age below 27yrs. Mb: 8618607705

DOCTOR 28/165CM, M.D., in Naturopathy & Yoga, Asst. Prof. in Sona College of Naturopathy & Yoga, Salem, 4.5 L/P.A. Arya Vysya, Elishetla Gothram, Pooradam, Seeking suitable, fair, educated Bride from same community. Ph : 9842388976.

NAIDU BOY 28/5ft 6inch MDS wants BDS/MDS Girl 8237710376 (whatapp) bingotedemede786@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR BOY 38, Chathayam Nakshathram settled in Coimbatore working in HCL Technologies (WFH) looking for a suitable proposal. Please contact: 9894546059

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

SAIVA PILLAI, 28/164,uthirattathi, B.E, SW Engr, working in trichy, 8LPA having left hand slightly short seeks suitable bride from same caste, ct: 9442957552

URDU

SMU BOY 34/ 170, Smart, B.Sc, PGD-CA, Govt. Service Chennai Seeks Graduate Bride. Ct: 94456 78086

SMU Syed 32yrs 5.10 Eletrical Eng wrkg Qatar Urgent Marriage B.E & Grad Religious Namazi, Urdugirl only 9442577760.

SMU HANDSOME divorced well educated Canadian Engr.5ft 9inch/34/seeking educated religious SMU girl PR/ctzn.US/Canada allahfu66@gmail.com

THE HINDU

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Thanks to elusive leopard, 22 schools remain shut in Belagavi

Around 10,000 students have been missing physical classes since August 5

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

The continued and futile effort to capture the leopard which is on the loose around Belagavi has affected the functioning of 22 schools in the western parts of the city.

Education Department officials estimate that about 10,000 students are affected due to the closure of schools. While some private schools have started online classes, most government schools are yet to do so.

Forest and police personnel using an elephant to search the leopard at the golf course in Belagavi on Saturday. • P.K. BADIGER

Government schools

Since the leopard made an appearance in Jadhav Nagar on August 5, the district administration has issued orders to close 22 schools in the neighbourhood. Half of them are State government-run schools.

Most schools have complied with the orders. While some private schools have continued to hold classes after a few days of closure, most of them have been conducting online classes.

The leopard is said to be hiding in the golf course. It was seen entering and re-entering the 250-acre green expanse three times over the last three weeks. The course has enough prey such as peacocks, dogs, and rabbits. The golf course is within 2 km of the schools in Hindalga village, the military camp, and areas such as Ganeshpur, Jadhav Nagar, Hanuman Nagar, and Sainik Colony.

Nagaraja Rao, who sends his children to Vanita Vidyalaya, feels their learning has taken a hit. Concurring with him, Mehtab Nawaj, a resident of the camp area, said, "Students have suffered for two years owing to COVID-induced lockdowns. Forcing another lockdown because of the leopard is horrid."

Make-up classes

Education officers said the lost class hours would be made up. Basavaraj Nalatwad, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, noted that the problem was serious. "We are forced to close schools in the vicinity of the golf course for the safety of children and teachers. But it is affecting the teaching-learning process. We recognise this. I have instructed the block education officers to direct all schools to make up for the lost hours by organising classes during the October holidays," he said.

Block Education Officer Ravi Bhajantr said wherever possible, teachers have been asked to take online classes. However, teachers said this may not be effective as most students were from poor households that did not have smartphones or enough mobile data packs.

"Teachers have also been asked to send notes to students of higher classes on the phones of their parents. But such measures can not replace offline classes," said Chandrakat Patil, a teacher in a school near the Sugar Institute area.

Some are critical of the operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Many residents of Belagavi city feel that the Forest Department is taking more time than necessary to capture the leopard which has been in the golf course.

"We keep hearing of officials capturing leopards in operations lasting one or two days. But the Belagavi operation is going on for three weeks and it is difficult to understand why," said Kirthi Deshpande, a resident of Jadhav Nagar.

"There are several problems with the way the district administration or the Forest Department is handling the situation," said Ashok Chandaragi, convener of the Kannada Associations of Belagavi.

He pointed out that the department was not following the standard operating procedure recommended by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

"First of all, the district administration should block all access to the golf course and avoid crowding at the site. We should realise that when they keep cages with live bait, people should not go and crowd the area. The leopard is within the golf course, a clearly demarcated area. It will be easily caught if Forest Department personnel and police do not crowd the area," he said.

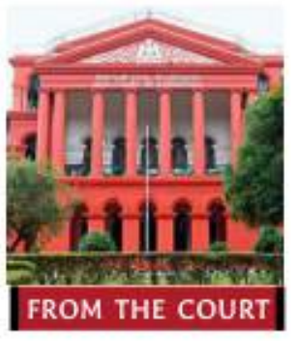
However, others sympathise with the staff. "It is very difficult to venture into the thickly wooded fringes of the golf course where the wild animal is hiding. They are tracking pugmarks, combing the shrubs, cutting down trees, putting up cages with live baits, and setting camera traps. They have also deputed two elephants and four dart shooters. What more can they do?" asked Mudassar Ternikar, a social activist.

Affected persons should be given LOC copy at the time of its execution: HC

'There is no need to inform about issuance of the circular prior to its execution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A copy of the lookout circular (LOC), issued for preventing persons facing criminal cases and for other reasons as per the law, will have to be furnished to them at the time of its execution by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) while stopping them from leaving the country, said the High Court of Karnataka.



However, the court made it clear that there was no need to provide a copy of the LOC to the person, against whom it is targeted, at any point of time prior to its execution at the immigration point.

Also, the court said it is the duty of the investigating agencies and other authorities, who are empowered to issue the LOCs, to supply copy of the LOCs to the BoI.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by a 44-year-old Chief Data Scientist working in a multinational company in Bengaluru.

Stopped at airport

The petitioner had questioned the LOC issued against him as he was stopped at the Bengaluru airport in May when he was leaving for Paris for his official work. The petitioner is facing a criminal case of alleged sexual assault on his minor son and a domestic violence complaint, both lodged based on his wife's complaint.

Procedure, guidelines

On going through procedure and guidelines issued by the Union government for issuance and execution of the LOC, the court said that as the LOC curtails the right to travel abroad, persons affected by the LOC "would at least become entitled to a copy of the LOC, not at any time prior to his being stopped from travelling abroad, but only at the time when they are stopped from travelling out of the shores of this nation."

Such a measure would ensure that persons affected by the LOCs become aware as to why their liberty to travel, which is a facet of the fundamental right, is being taken away, the court said while pointing out that this becomes the only requirement of principles of natural justice in the cases that emanate from the LOC.

An accused, who is enlarged on bail, should be made known as to why his travel is being interrupted in cases where the bail orders does not contain any restriction on their travel, the court said.

The court declined to recall the LOC against the petitioner since the impugned crime is neither eclipsed nor extinguished by any competent judicial fora.

Directive to police

However, the court directed the city police to consider the representation given by the petitioner seeking recall of the LOC in connection with the crime and pass appropriate orders as per the law within six weeks.

Mining in State: Rejection of CEC recommendation by SC welcomed

Hiremath demands Karnataka-like mining restrictions in Andhra Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Samaj Parivartana Samudaya (SPS) and National Committee for Protection of Natural Resources (NCPNR), Citizens For Democracy (CFD) and other organisations have welcomed the Supreme Court's order rejecting the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on entirely removing the ceiling limit on mining iron ore in Karnataka.

President of SPS and NCPNR S.R. Hiremath addressing presspersons in Hubballi on Saturday. • KIRAN BAKALE

At a press conference in Hubballi on Saturday, president of SPS and CFD S.R. Hiremath referred to the apex court's August 26 order pertaining to writ petition no. 562 of 2009 and said that the court stated that the situation warranted a "cautious approach" and fine balance between the two goals of conservation of ecology and environment and spirit of economic development.

Mr. Hiremath said the court's rejection of the CEC recommendation vindicated the stand taken by the petitioners (himself and Vishnu Kamath).

In its order, the court has permitted raising the limit of iron ore mining from 28 MMT to 35 MMT for Ballari district and from 7 MMT to 15 MMT for Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts, collectively.

Caution

Referring to the permission given by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for mining in the State, Mr. Hiremath said there was a need for extreme caution in this regard and the Supreme Court should intervene to put a break to such attempts by "tainted persons" such as the former Minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, who was earlier jailed in cases of illegal mining.

Mr. Hiremath alleged that Mr. Reddy, who has been barred from entering Ballari district in connection with cases of illegal mining, was now making efforts to start mining in Andhra Pradesh and it was a matter of concern that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had given his consent to it.

He said the organisations fighting against illegal mining would urge the Andhra Pradesh government to take all those steps that were taken in Karnataka to check illegal mining in that State also. The SPS would continue its fight against the same in the Supreme Court, Mr. Hiremath said.

Showcasing creativity

Students participating in a competition to make clay idols of Lord Ganesha, ahead of the Ganesha Chaturthi festival, in Bengaluru on Saturday. • PTI

Ex-CM declines to attend function organised by ICFA

'My party's and my position is against programme's agenda'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah on Saturday refused to participate in an event organised by the India-China Friendship Association (ICFA), Karnataka, citing ideological differences.

Siddaramaiah

Mr. Siddaramaiah expressed surprise at being included in the guest list of the event despite having declined the invitation.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to India Sun Weidong will also participate in the event to be held on Sunday.

"I had declined the invitation of the India-China Friendship Association to participate in their event which will be held tomorrow. It is surprising to see my name despite declining it," tweeted Mr. Siddaramaiah on Saturday.

"I declined to participate as my party's and my position is against the agenda of the programme," the former Chief Minister said.

The event has been organised under India-China Friendship Association, Karnataka. It includes a seminar on Taiwan and a Chinese photographic exhibition. Sources said now the seminar has been cancelled.

Apart from Mr. Siddaramaiah, the former Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Rajya Sabha member L. Hanumanthaiah, and the former Minister P.G.R. Sindhia, who is president of the ICFA National, are named as speakers of the event. The event, to be held at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, would be presided over by K. Srinivas Gowda, MLA and president of the ICFA in Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah condemns Azad's exit from Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah has termed "unfortunate" the resignation of senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Congress and condemned his decision to quit after five decades.

'Hidden hands'

KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed said "some hidden hands" were behind the resignation of Mr. Azad from the party.

In a press release, the former Chief Minister said, "The Congress is going through difficult times due to the setback in the recent elections. More than this, it is the entire country which is facing difficulty due to an autocratic government. Democracy is under threat in our country. All the pillars of our constitution are collapsing." The experience and organisational ability of Mr. Azad were more important for both the party and the country during this crisis, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Lakshminarayana to quit Congress, join BJP

'I don't like the way Congress is being run in the State'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The former MLC M.D. Lakshminarayana, who is also heading the OBC cell of the KPCC, has decided to quit the Congress in a few days, most likely after Ganesha Chaturthi festival.

Mr. Lakshminarayana, who joined the Congress a few years ago, will return to the ruling BJP next month. A few days ago, he met veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa and discussed the recent developments in the party and the Congress, it is learnt. The former MLC told *The Hindu* on Saturday that he, "Did not like the way in which the party was being run in the State." He also accused the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of neglecting the Hindu vote bank.

Though he had suggested Congress leaders not to speak against the Hindu community, a few leaders had been criticising freedom fighters belonging to the RSS without a break, Mr. Lakshminarayana said.

A couple of months ago, the former MLC wrote to KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and expressed his unhappiness over the selection of candidates for the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council seats.

'Centre encouraging farmers to grow millets'

STAFF REPORTER
YADGIR

In 2018, India celebrated the year of millet and after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a proposal to the United Nations to emphasise the importance of encouraging millets as healthy food, the world is now celebrating the International Year of Millets. This all happened because of the PM's efforts, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

She was speaking after inaugurating the 'Millet conclave-2022' and an exhibition, organised at University of Agricultural Sciences in Raichur on Saturday. The programme was jointly organised by UAS Raichur and NABARD.

She said that many States are growing millets and exporting to other countries. As a result of this, India has now become the fifth largest country in the world with regards to export of millets.

"The Union government has been focusing on encouraging farmers to grow the millets by giving them ₹10,000 as incentive."

She said Karnataka is the one of the leading States to grow millets, with the assistance of NABARD, and its contribution to the nation was immense.

She further said that the Union government has declared that no tax would be charged for those who establish food processing units under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme.

Holiday for High Court tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka will remain closed on Monday (August 29), and October 15 will be a sitting day in lieu of this holiday, said a notification issued on Friday.

With this, the High Court will be closed from August 29 to 31, as August 30 and 31 were already declared as holidays for Gowri and Ganesha festivals, respectively, in the court's calendar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, our client viz., **Mr. Narasimha Reddy** had lost the original Registered Agreement of Sale without Possession dated 11.06.2015 with respect to Residential Apartment bearing No. F-08 in first floor of "AMITH SUNBLOSSOM" situated at Mico layout, Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

Our clients have already lodged the Police Complaint on 27.08.2022 in the jurisdictional Police Station vide Lost Report No. 0305206/2022. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title & interest over the above said Property or on aforesaid mentioned original document may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within **7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that the said Original Registered Agreement of Sale without Possession is lost.

If any person holding the said Original Registered Agreement of Sale without Possession may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.

Dated this 28th day of August 2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No.428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main
HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore-560102.
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150680.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Ravi Kumar Motukuri resident of Flat No. B-G 03, SAI RAM GARDENIA, Chikkakannahalli, Behind RGA Tech Park, Sarjapura Road, Bangalore - 560 035, intends to purchase schedule property from Sri. Henry Aranha and Mr. Alan Aranha both residents of No. 148, 2nd Cross, Domlur 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 071, in respect of below mentioned schedule Property. Any person claiming to have any charge, lien, interest, minor claims, right's whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 7.9.2022 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential converted vacant Site No. 46, formed in Survey No. 34/2, in the Layout known as 'CITY LIGHT SEASONS PHASE-II', Situated at Chikkadumasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, ad measuring East to West : 16.77 mtrs and North to South: 12.19 mtrs and bounded on: East by: Plot No. 59, West by: Road, North by: Plot No. 47, South by: Site No. 45.

Sd/- **V. SRINIVAS**
BHAGWANTHI ASSOCIATES
Advocate & Consultants
Sy.No. 89/2, Site No. 1, Near SBR Palace,
Marathalli, Bangalore - 560 037.
Mobile : 9243110037 Date 27.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **R.UMESH**, No.1/5, Manjunatha Nagara, Magadi Main Road, BENGALURU – 560 023, intends to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from ITS ABSOLUTE OWNER T.S. YASHAS, No.833/B, 5th Cross Road, 9th Main, Hampinagar, BENGALURU – 560 104.

If any person/s, Institution, Bank, Firm, Any Financial Organization etc., have got any objections for proposed purchase or having any right, claim, share, title and interest in the Schedule Property they may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned or directly, along with supporting documents within 10 days from this publication and if any objections/claims received thereafter will not be binding on or entertained by my Client and my Client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property as if, there are no claims/objections.

"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, consisting of land and building, bearing New Municipal No.43, (Old Site No.833/B, of RAILWAY LINE PIPE LINE EXTENSION) SITUATED AT 5th CROSS ROAD, HANPINAGAR, BENGALURU, now having BBMP PID No.34-51-43, of Hampinagar Ward No.133 (Old Ward No.34) and the land area of the same is measuring East to West : 30 feet, and North to South : 42 feet, in all measuring 1260 square feet, and is consisting of an residential building having all the civic amenities, and the entire property is bounded on as under : EASTBY Property bearing No.833/C; WEST BY Road; NORTH BY Road; SOUTH BY Property bearing No.833/A

M.H.SOMANATH, Advocate,
No.122, First Floor, Mahesh Market
Balepet, Bangalore – 560 053.
9845066737/080-42150060

Date: 28 August 2022
Place: Bangalore

IN BRIEF

Mithali Raj and Nitin meet BJP chief Nadda

HYDERABAD

BJP president J.P. Nadda met former Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj and actor Nitin during his visit to the city on Saturday. Their meetings with Mr. Nadda assumed significance in the background of another actor Jr. NTR calling on Home Minister Amit Shah last week.

TTD to give ₹2 crore aid for institute in Kolkata

TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has decided to give a financial assistance of ₹2 crore to Sri Ramakrishna Mission for the construction of the Centre for Human Excellence and Social Sciences at Viveka Tirtha in New Town of Kolkata. The mission had requested the TTD ₹25 crore for the project.

Arumughaswamy Commission submits report to T.N. Chief Minister

We did not intend to force Sasikala to depose before panel, says retired judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Justice (retired) A. Arumughaswamy Commission, inquiring into the circumstances leading to the hospitalisation and death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, submitted its report to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday. The commission was constituted in 2017 and was given 14 extensions. Even on August 4, it received one more extension.

Mr. Arumughaswamy, who met the Chief Minister at the Secretariat, submitted a report after inquiring 154 witnesses.

The report is in English and Tamil, with the former running for 500 pages and the latter for 608.

The AIIMS medical panel constituted to assist the Arumughaswamy Commission with the medical reports earlier submitted its report giving Apollo Hospitals a clean chit in the treatment provided to Jayalalithaa, and concurred with its final diagnosis.

A. Arumughaswamy

Mr. Arumughaswamy said he did not intend to force Ms. Sasikala to depose before the Commission. Talking to reporters after submitting the final report on Saturday, he said it would be too elaborate if he went into the issue of why he had not forced the former aide of Jayalalithaa to depose before the commission.

"The commission sent a summons and gave an opportunity to her to depose before it. When she sent it in writing that she would not appear, we cannot compel her. Though the commission has the right to summon her, we did not test it," he said when asked whether the commission had come to the conclusion that it was not necessary for her to appear before it.

Mr. Arumughaswamy said even if the commission decided to make her depose, it could have been possible only after the deposition of all other witnesses. "Then you may say that we have given notice to her only with the view of extending the tenure of the commission. So, I got her affidavit and left it at that," he said.

To a question on whether he was able to get answers from Ms. Sasikala's affidavit, Mr. Arumughaswamy said it was not fair to go into the details. "But the affidavit will not say what we require," he said.

"The report speaks more about what the witnesses have deposed. My views are limited," he explained and acknowledged the support of the Supreme Court and the State government headed by both the AIADMK and the DMK.

Mr. Arumughaswamy also expressed satisfaction over the cooperation extended by Apollo Hospitals.

Tension at Ootla and Rallakatwa villages

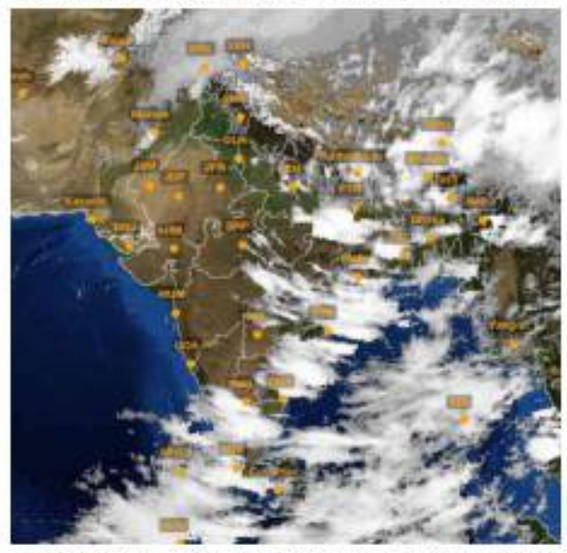
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed for several hours at Ootla and Rallakatwa villages in Jinnaram mandal of Sangareddy district on Saturday when villagers turned violent during the public hearing on the proposed establishment of stone crushers in these villages.

According to sources, the officials arranged for public hearing in these villages on the proposal for establishment of stone crushers. As several villagers turned violent the police resorted to lathi-charge. At first, Additional Collector B. Veera Reddy and Revenue Divisional Officer M. Nagesh reached Rallakatwa village and conducted public hearing amidst protest by villagers. Then they proceeded to Ootla village.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, interior Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	33.4	27.6	Kozhikode	3	28.6	23.8
Ahmedabad	–	32.6	25.3	Kurnool	21	31.5	23.5
Aizawl	6	23.7	20.6	Lucknow	–	36.0	27.1
Allahabad	4.4	34.8	27.0	Madurai	23	32.8	22.4
Bengaluru	21.1	27.9	19.3	Mangaluru	6.6	27.9	23.8
Bhopal	–	30.0	22.4	Mumbai	–	31.2	24.8
Bhubaneswar	32.3	35.1	26.0	Mysuru	58	29.0	20.4
Chandigarh	–	34.8	27.6	New Delhi	–	35.1	26.4
Chennai	17	33.6	23.7	Patna	1	34.8	28.4
Coimbatore	23	30.2	21.0	Port Blair	15	30.4	23.8
Dehradun	0.5	34.1	25.2	Puducherry	–	32.2	23.6
Gangtok	3	22.0	18.1	Pune	–	30.3	20.2
Goa	0.8	30.7	24.6	Raipur	–	34.2	26.2
Guwahati	–	34.2	27.5	Ranchi	–	33.0	23.9
Hubballi	–	27.0	21.0	Shillong	0.3	25.2	18.8
Hyderabad	–	33.6	23.5	Shimla	–	25.8	20.2
Imphal	–	26.7	22.2	Srinagar	1	29.0	17.6
Jaipur	–	32.8	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	16	28.2	22.4
Kochi	28	26.4	24.8	Tiruchi	3	34.5	24.0
Kohima	–	24.0	–	Vijayawada	–	35.4	25.6
Kolkata	–	34.8	28.1	Visakhapatnam	18	33.1	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	–	12	9	62	65	
Bengaluru	6	18	61	53	57	
Chennai	2	43	66	47	44	
Delhi	23	59	69	77	254	
Hyderabad	12	3	117	67	98	
Kolkata	9	13	24	61	87	
Lucknow	12	43	76	64	82	
Mumbai	–	10	94	119	113	
Pune	–	19	75	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	9	48	29	82	106	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Purnia, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 297 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Pinarayi's invite to Shah sparks row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's "personal invitation" to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to attend the Nehru Trophy Boat Race as chief guest on September 4 has rankled the Congress and sparked a new political controversy.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said on Saturday that political expediency underscored the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)] Kerala unit's pronounced slant towards the central leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The State CPI(M)'s "cosying up" to the Sangh Parivar was *prima facie* in variance with the stated position of the party's national leadership.

Members of a boat club practising for the Nehru Trophy Boat Race on Saturday. The 68th edition of the race will be held at Punnamada Lake on September 4. • SURESH ALLEPPEY

Mr. Satheesan said the CPI (M)'s national leadership was hostage to the political whims and fancies of the party's State leadership. He asked whether fear of legal jeopardy in the SNC-Lavalin case and UAE gold smuggling case had prompted Mr. Vijayan to court Mr. Shah.

The government has also invited Mr. Shah to speak at the zone council meeting of southern States at Kovalam on September 3.

Motorbike-borne persons vandalise CPI(M) office

Party blames RSS-Sangh for the attack

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Thiruvananthapuram appeared to be in the throes of political turmoil yet again after the district office of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) came under attack by unidentified motorbike-borne persons during the wee hours of Saturday.

The incident occurred nearly two months after a man hurled a low-intensity explosive at the AKG Centre, the party's State headquarters.

The CPI(M) district office at Mettukada was vandalised around 1.50 a.m. by a gang of six people who rode three motorcycles. Surveillance camera footage showed a person who rode pillion on the third scooter hurling a rock towards the office and fleeing away before two police officers who were stationed outside the office could react.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan accused the RSS-Sangh Parivar combine of orchestrating the "premeditated" attack.

However, the Bharatiya Janata Party members have distanced themselves from the incident. Party district president V.V. Rajesh threatened to retaliate if BJP's offices came under attack.

CPI(M) holds emergency meeting in Kerala

Party may elect interim secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has convened an 'emergency' leadership meeting on Sunday and Monday.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Polit Bureau member Prakash Karat will attend the State secretariat and State committee meeting on consecutive days, fuelling speculation that some important decisions are in the offing.

The upcoming closed-door conference has triggered widespread speculation that the party might nominate a senior leader as a stand-in for CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan till he returns from medical leave.

The February CPI(M) State conference in Kochi had elected Mr. Balakrishnan as party secretary for a second term. He has nearly three years left in office.

Polit Bureau member A. Vijayaraghavan, MP, had stood in for Mr. Balakrishnan when the latter went to the U.S. for treatment last year.

At the time, Mr. Vijayaraghavan was both Left Democratic Front convener and CPI(M) State secretary in-charge.

Temporary substitute

Most of the goings-on in the CPI(M) in the run-up to the "extraordinary" leadership conclave remain secret and largely in the realm of conjecture.

By some accounts, the CPI(M)'s choice as a temporary substitute for Mr. Balakrishnan could be Mr. Vijayaraghavan, LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan or former Minister and central secretariat member A.K. Balan.

Clay art

Idol fest: Students trying their hands with clay at a Ganesha idol-making contest organised at the GVR Government Music and Dance College in Vijayawada on Saturday. • G.N. RAO

Eight more Sri Lankans reach Dhanushkodi

L. SRIKRISHNA
RAMESWARAM

The survival of commoners remained a challenge in Sri Lanka, said 35-year-old R. Sasikumar, a casual worker, one of the eight persons from the crisis-hit country who arrived at the first islet of Dhanushkodi in an illegal vessel in the early hours of Saturday.

Reaching Indian waters around 2 a.m., the Sri Lankan from Talaimannar district said though Parliament had elected a new President and the media were reporting that the situation would improve, nothing had happened till now.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over the phone, he said essential goods were not available in ration shops.

"I exhausted all my borrowing capacity. I have nothing more to sell. Hence, I decided to come to Tamil Nadu in an illegal vessel, for which, a relative of mine paid one lakh Sri Lankan rupees," he said.

Marine Police personnel said two families, identified as Mr. Sasikumar, R. Subiska, 9, R. Mohith, 7, and V. Jayanthini, 30, from Jaffna, and V. Iniya, 10, V. Hariharan, 6, V. Dhanushan, 4, and D. Indumathi from Talaimannar, reached the shores. They were all brought to the camp for verification by the Indian Coast Guard personnel who were on surveillance duty.

Ms. Jayanthini said she lost her job in May. Since then, she managed to buy essentials using her savings. "As the price of rice and other commodities rose, we couldn't afford them. On many days, the shops were closed. Our children could not have a meal on many days. Access to potable water too was difficult in many habitations. Hence, we decided to get out and at least have something to eat and survive," she said.

Ryots roped in for boosting germplasm

Govt. to provide incentives to farmers in and around Ongole to rear calves

S. MURALI
ONGOLE

Pure breed of indigenous cattle has been fast disappearing in the land of Ongole bulls, with the average farmer losing interest in rearing them, especially in Prakasam district where they flourished in between Gundalakamma and Musi rivers for centuries.

As a result, the majestic bovine animals thrived in far away countries such as Brazil, which has built a thriving dairy industry by importing Ongole breed of cattle germplasm in a big way since 1950s. To undo the damage, the Union and State Governments have taken up germplasm improvement programme by roping in farmers in and around Ongole in Prakasam district under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

A farmer gets a bull calf for rearing under germplasm improvement programme at Chadalawada, near Ongole.

The selected farmers are being provided with young bulls born to elite mothers to promote germplasm improvement, according to Animal husbandry Joint Director Baby Rani. "Each such farmer will be provided with ₹20,000 for rearing male calves aged between 6 months to 1 year. The maintenance cost for feed up to ₹4,000 and ₹700 for medicines for every six months up to 1 year will also be provided to each beneficiary farmer," she said.

However, the non-serious persons would be in for big trouble as the department would initiative criminal action in case of neglect, she made it clear.

Punitive action

The department staff would regularly visit the beneficiary farmers to evaluate the healthy upkeep of the animals and recommend punitive action in case of poor maintenance, she added.

Additional cost on nurturing the bull calves should be borne by the beneficiaries themselves as also the transportation cost. The purchased bull calves would have to be insured for three years by the beneficiaries themselves. "To start with 50 Ongole bull calves will be provided to farmers," she explains.

'*Vikrant* will take time to be fully ready'

It has done exceedingly well in sea trials, says Commodore Vidhyadhar Harke

S. ANANDAN
KOCHI

It is going to take a 'finite time' for the maiden indigenous aircraft carrier, set to be inducted into the Navy as *Vikrant* on September 2, to be fully ready for deployment, according to the ship's commanding officer (designate) Commodore Vidhyadhar Harke.

Talking to *The Hindu* on the flight deck of the spanking new vessel, which carries the crest and the pennant number (R11) of India's first aircraft carrier *Vikrant* inducted in 1961, Cmde. Harke said the vessel had done exceedingly well in the series of sea trials undertaken from August, 2021.

"Its progress has been very encouraging. We achieved full power on the first sortie itself, which is a record of sorts for any ship constructed in India or abroad. The ship has been put through the paces to prove herself at sea. And nearly all the systems have matured to such a level that we can confidently operate at sea. So, it's ready for commissioning and to be put to the sea," he said.

Setting course: The flight deck of the maiden indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant. • THULASI KAKKAT

While helicopter operations were carried out from the deck of the carrier during the trials, integration of the fighter aircraft - MiG 29K, for now - and the carrier's integration with the fleet, the Carrier Battle Group (CBG), would be undertaken soon after its induction. "So far, we have been proving our internal machineries. Now, we will see how this behemoth, a potent fighting platform, integrates with the fleet," Cmde. Harke said.

"It does take a finite time for the complete realisation of the potential of a carrier. If you take the example of *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, after commissioning, it was only last year that it undertook a deployment of about six months to the South China Sea," he added.

Asked about the survivability of carriers in times of carrier killer missiles, Cmde Harke said several countries were building carriers which indicated that "carriers have a future and that's why countries are investing in it".

FROM PAGE ONE

Hemant Soren seeks to keep his flock together

The Congress MLAs are scheduled to attend a legislature party meeting late in the evening for which the State party in-charge, Avinash Pandey, has reached Ranchi.

Though most of the State BJP leaders refrained from making any comment, a few of them, requesting anonymity, said, "Something is being cooked up in the ruling UPA camp, otherwise what was the need of taking them in buses to some other place, out of Ranchi?"

Meanwhile, BJP MP from Godda, Nishikant Dubey, who had triggered a row saying that the EC had sent the notice to disqualify Mr. Soren, added fuel to fire again on Saturday by tweeting: "According to JMM sources, some MLAs reached Chhattisgarh at 2 a.m. Most of the MLAs are reluctant to go and are waiting for orders of senior JMM leader Basant Soren. Some buses are parked in Ranchi for MLAs." Mr. Basant Soren, though, was seen arriving at the Latratu guest house with the other MLAs and later returning to Ranchi with them.

COVID lull over, students throng coaching capital

Others, like Balram Sarkar, also from West Bengal, said some of the physical classes in Kota cost less. The physical classroom format from Physicswallah and Unacademy is priced about ₹40,000 to ₹50,000 less than the older local coaching brands such as Motion Education, Bansal Classes or Allen Institute.

For some students like Nikhil Jain, 18, of Bihar, the "centre did not matter as much". "We knew I had to come to this town and figure the rest out," he said, walking along the lanes of Talwandi as his older brother had before him.

While hundreds of students waited in packed halls with over 15 help desks for a spot in the third phase of admissions at Physicswallah, elsewhere at the facility, larger halls were filled with mounds of luggage, the owners sitting on suitcases as they waited for an "agent" to find them a hostel room – or any room at all.

"None of the hostels near the coaching centres is available any more. Right now, I'm trying to find rooms in another hostel for some students because mine has been booked up. We are not able to get new rooms ready on time," said Prerak Shah, one among the dozens of agents procuring accommodation.

Well-known teachers from local coaching centres are at risk of being "poached". Neeraj Dubey, now a mathematics teacher at Physicswallah, was with the Allen Institute for nine years. "I came because the lower price point made me feel I would be able to better contribute by teaching students who don't have the money to go elsewhere," Mr. Dubey said.

Swapnil Sharma, Physicswallah's faculty acquisition officer, said, "I would say that we are not poaching teachers and students. Teachers are willing to join us because of our mission and we recruit from all over the country based on a lot of parameters." Mr. Sharma was himself a manager at Allen Institute for over six years before joining the ed-tech company in June 2021.

"Ed-tech companies have generated a new market for Kota," Mr. Vijay said but maintained that he wasn't sure how long they would last. "When kids stay here for a few months, they realise what the industry is like – it's the entire ecosystem that this town offers, the local support system. The difference in fees will not amount to much because students are anyway going to spend money on living costs. They [ed-tech companies] have to improve services exponentially to be able to survive and compete," he said.

'Single brand to help cut fertilizer cost'

'One Nation, One Fertilizer' will stop its criss-cross movement for longer distances, says Mandaviya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prices of essential fertilizers such as diammonium phosphate , muriate of potash (shown above) are decontrolled as per nutrient-based subsidy policy of 2010, says Minister. • FILE PHOTO

After the Opposition's criticism that the Centre's decision to introduce "One Nation, One Fertilizer" by branding it as the Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (PMBJP) is for self-promotion, Union Minister for Fertilizers and Chemicals Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday that the scheme was aimed at reducing the logistics cost involved in the transportation of fertilizers.

In an informal briefing, Mr. Mandaviya said the Centre had taken steps to ensure the steady availability of fertilizers by entering into agreements with countries such as Russia and Saudi Arabia at the time of a global shortage for fertilizers. He said that recently, the Centre signed an agreement in Saudi Arabia for the supply of 2.5 million tonnes of fertilizers for different Indian manufacturers.

Mr. Mandaviya said "One Nation One Fertilizer" would stop the criss-cross movement of fertilizers for longer distances. "It will reduce logistics costs and also ensure the availability of fertilizers to the farmers throughout the year. This concept will strengthen to monitor real-time movement, availability and sales of fertilizers in a State," he said. The Minister said that the production and distribution process would be redrawn as the companies would not have to transport their products beyond 500 kilometres on average.

On the criticism that prices of essential fertilizers such as diammonium phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MoP) and single super phosphate (SSP) are high, he said the prices were decontrolled as per the nutrient-based subsidy policy from 2010. "Prices are fixed by phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizer companies as per market dynamics. "Due to the rise in international prices of fertilizers and raw materials due to the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and the present geopolitical situation, the Centre increased substantial amount of subsidy on fertilizers to subsume rise in prices," he added.

He said the specifications of fertilizers were the same across the nation despite their brand.

"After the introduction of the 'Bharat' brand under One Nation, One Fertilizer, farmers would not be confused to choose the brand. It will encourage capturing the local market by selling fertilizers by companies and would lead to timely availability of fertilizers to the farmers," he said adding that there is no compromise on the quality of fertilizers.

Bajrang Dal protests namaaz in mall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Bajrang Dal activists on Saturday objected to a group of men offering *namaaz* inside a mall in Bhopal and said that they would recite the *Hanuman Chalisa* hymn there.

A video of the incident in D.B. Mall, Bhopal's biggest mall, has gone viral. In the video, activists of right wing outfit are seen objecting to the men offering *namaaz*, according to police sources.

No police complaint was made in connection with the incident. A senior police officer said that there is a State law in Madhya Pradesh that prohibits the use of any non-religious public or private place for religious activity without the permission of the District Collector.

Use khadi products daily, says PM

'The fabric can become an inspiration to make India self-reliant by 2047'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

By example: Prime Minister Narendra Modi tries his hand at the charkha at the khadi festival in Ahmedabad on Saturday. • VIJAY SONEJI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday attended a khadi festival here and inaugurated a footbridge named Atal Bridge across the Sabarmati river connecting the eastern and western side of the city.

As part of the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, the khadi festival is being organised to pay tribute to the fabric and its importance during the Freedom Struggle. At the event, the Prime Minister tried his hand at the charkha to spin the yarn.

The festival is being organised on the Sabarmati riverfront, with nearly 7,500 women khadi artisans from various districts of Gujarat participated. When the PM arrived at the venue, all those women were spinning the charkha simultaneously.

Symbol of self-respect

In his address, the PM called for using khadi products in day-to-day life to help the local industry and artisans.

According to him, khadi was made the symbol of the country's self-respect by Gandhiji during the freedom movement but post-Independence, khadi and related industries in the country were not promoted, leading to their decline.

The way khadi became the force of the freedom movement, it can also become an inspiration to make India developed and self-reliant by 2047, he said, adding that we all have to promote it to make that happen.

The PM also urged the citizens to gift khadi products during the coming festive season.

"I want to make an appeal to the people for the coming festivals, gift khadi products made in village industries. You can have clothes made of different types of fabrics. But if you give place to khadi in that, then the 'Vocal for Local' campaign will gain momentum," he said in his appeal.

Plans aplenty

Mr. Modi arrived on Saturday afternoon on a two-day visit to his home state Gujarat that goes to the Assembly election in December.

During his two-day visit to the home State, he will take part in a host of programmes and inaugurate or lay the foundation-stone of multiple projects in Kutch and Gandhinagar.

In Kutch, he will inaugurate a *Smriti Van* that celebrates the spirit of resilience shown by people following the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat. He will also hold a road-show in Kutch.

'Tirupati conclave death knell of tripartite system'

Trade unions ask for inclusion in meets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The central trade unions, including the RSS-supported Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), has criticised the Union government for holding a National Labour Conference in Tirupati of Andhra Pradesh this week without inviting the trade unions or the employers' associations. The Centre should not keep the trade unions out of the consultations on implementing the four Labour Codes, they said.

A resolution adopted at the 151st Central Executive Committee meeting of the BMS held in Bhubaneswar of Odisha on Saturday demanded that the Centre immediately call the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) and uphold the tripartite tradition of India.

"Tripartism is the lifeline of labour relations in India. Successive governments have followed the tradition of tripartism in letter and spirit, maybe with a few exemptions," the resolution said highlighting the importance of the ILC, which was initiated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. "The system continued till 2015 when the last tripartite ILC was held. Thereafter, in spite of demand by the BMS and other trade unions, the conference is due for the last seven years," the BMS said and added that the Tirupati conference agenda was an indication of the death knell of the tripartite culture in India.

The AITUC condemned the statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Tirupati conference. "Mr. Modi says that his government has taken initiatives to abolish the laws from 'the period of slavery'. But the fact is that these codes will impose a new system of slavery on the workers, particularly the unorganised, contract and outsourced workers who constitute more than 90% of the workforce," said AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur.

The CITU denounced the Centre's "desperate bid" to mislead and confuse the people on its "brazenly anti-labour policies" through the Tirupati conclave and naming it the National Labour Conference through a "deceptive" media campaign.

Army pushes new tank and armoured carrier projects

BMP-II infantry vehicles in service are being upgraded

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

With the main battle tank proving pivotal in the modern-day battlefield, the Indian Army is looking to procure a new-generation 'Future Tank' under the Future Ready Combat Vehicle (FRCV) project in a phased manner, with expected induction by 2030, according to official sources. An earlier ambitious attempt failed to take off and official sources said the domestic industry is now ready to take the project forward quickly.

Arjun tank used by the Indian Army. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The mechanised infantry too, in addition to upgrading the large inventory of Russian BMP-II armoured personnel carriers in service, is gearing up to procure a new vehicle under the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) project.

"The Army is taking time to define the case and the requirements of the new tank. If all goes well, the prototype should be ready by 2030," an official source said.

The Army has a large fleet consisting of Russian T-72 and T-90 tanks and two regiments of indigenous Arjun tanks with an upgraded Arjun-MK1A to be inducted shortly. "The tank has been the dominant battle-winning factor of the land forces for a long time and future wars will have mobile protected systems taking the lead. T-72s have been the main battle tank of the Armoured Corps for close to 40 years and are now required to be replaced with a modern state-of-the-art tank," the source said.

Upgrading BMP-IIs

The Army's Mechanised Infantry operates the versatile BMP-IIs which are in the process of being upgraded including night enablement. The second generation Konkurs wire-guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) on them are being replaced with an indigenous third gen ATGM. In parallel, the FICV project and induction of other new platforms are also underway.

The Army is also looking at new airburst ammunition that can be fired from the 30 mm cannon of BMPs to destroy drones. A threat-cum-capability-based approach is being adopted while contextualising the modernisation plan, one of the sources cited above said.

Sources said that planned acquisitions include a tracked FICV to replace the BMP-II. The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 480 new vehicles is expected to be put up before the Defence Acquisition Council in its next meeting, one of the sources said.

The indigenous third-generation Nag Missile System (NAMIS) is being inducted for reconnaissance and support battalions and the DAC has accorded amendment to AoN for a quantity 13 Nag missile carriers and 293 Nag Missiles in July 2022. In addition, DAC has also accorded approval for 177 Infantry Combat Vehicle – Command and Control platforms in July.

In the wheeled category of vehicles, the DAC has already approved the procurement of 105 new Wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Wh-AFV) and 1,080 ATGMs to replace the existing ones. Procurement of a new Light Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle (LAMV) with enhanced mobility and protection to replace the existing modified Maruti Gypsy with the Recce Platoons is also underway.

Officials added that firepower upgrade include fire and forget ATGMs, acquisition of canister launched Loitering Munitions integrated on the BMP-II chassis and a project for IST System on BMP chassis.

Lifetime perks for former CJIs, SC judges

Exit benefits | The government has announced a slew of extra retirement benefits for Chief Justices of India and Supreme Court judges

- Domestic help and chauffeur for lifetime for retired CJIs and SC judges
- Lifetime secretarial assistant for retired CJI
- Personal security guard for 5 years for retired CJI and 3 years for SC judges
- Courtesies at airport lounges as per protocol to retired CJIs and SC judges
- Monthly phone/ Internet bill reimbursement up to ₹4,200

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Farewell ceremonies for retired judges usually have the country's top law officers wish them on behalf of the government a "healthy and peaceful" retirement. Now the government seems bent on fulfilling the wish.

On Friday, the Centre amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules the second time in a week to provide chauffeurs and domestic help for retired Chief Justices of India and Supreme Court judges for their entire lifetime.

Retired CJIs would also get secretarial assistants. The staff would be paid the salary and allowances of regular employees of the Supreme Court. The first series of amendments in the Rules on August 23 had allowed retired Chief Justices of India and Supreme Court judges chauffeurs, secretarial assistants and security cover only for a year. There was no mention of "domestic help", who would be an employee in the level of junior court assistant.

But Friday's amendments are more generous. The benefit of 24-hour security cover has been extended to five years for retired Chief Justices and three years for retired judges of the Supreme Court. The judiciary had recently raised concerns about attacks on judges.

Besides, former CJIs and retired judges of the top court can get their monthly mobile phone and Internet bills reimbursed to the extent of ₹4,200. A retired CJI is also entitled to a rent-free Type VII accommodation, other than the designated official residence, in New Delhi for six months immediately after retirement.

The government is one of the biggest litigants in the Supreme Court. There has been public debate on whether post-retirement benefits dangled by the government could influence the judicial work of serving judges.

Indian mission in Sri Lanka slams Chinese envoy's remarks

Ambassador violated basic diplomatic etiquette, it says

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sharply reacting to the recent remarks of the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, on the controversial visit of a Chinese military vessel from August 16 to 22, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said they "violated basic diplomatic etiquette" and "gave away" the purpose of the vessel's visit.

China's research and survey vessel, *Yuan Wang 5*, at the Hambantota port.

In a strongly worded Twitter thread late on Saturday, the mission said it had noted the remarks of the Chinese Ambassador.

"His violation of basic diplomatic etiquette may be a personal trait or reflecting a larger national attitude," it said.

"His view of Sri Lanka's northern neighbour may be coloured by how his own country behaves. India, we assure him, is very different.

His imputing a geopolitical context to the visit of a purported scientific research vessel is a giveaway," it said.

India's uncharacteristically direct response referring to the diplomat and China came a day after Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong wrote in Sri Lankan media about countries "far or near bullying Sri Lanka". The Ambassador had also observed that Sri Lanka overcame "aggression from its northern neighbour 17 times".

He had also connected U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan with the "successful" docking of Chinese satellite-tracking vessel *Yuan Wang 5* in the southern Hambantota port, and argued for China and Sri Lanka "jointly safeguarding each other's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity".

The Indian High Commission further said: "Opaqueness and debt driven agendas are now a major challenge, especially for smaller nations. Recent developments are a caution. Sri Lanka needs support, not unwanted pressure or unnecessary controversies to serve another country's agenda."

2 BSF jawans held on rape charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Two personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) were arrested by the West Bengal Police on Saturday in a case of gang rape in the Bagda police station limits in North 24 Parganas. The alleged incident occurred between the night of Thursday and the early hours of Friday at the Jeetpur border outpost along the India-Bangladesh border.

The woman, aged about 23, was allegedly trying to cross the border from the Indian side with a child when she encountered the BSF jawans. According to the police, the BSF personnel dragged her to the fields and gang-raped her. The incident shocked the people in the area and Biswajit Das, MLA, met the villagers and family members of the survivor. Mr. Das, who won the polls on BJP ticket and later shifted his allegiance to the Trinamool Congress, said that if the jurisdiction of the BSF was increased to 50 km, such incidents would occur.

"We have suspended the personnel and initiated inquiry," A.K. Arya, DIG, South Bengal Frontier of BSF said.

CWC meet today to discuss poll schedule

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka to take part in first meeting to be held in the wake of Azad's exit

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on Sunday, its first meeting after the exit of Ghulam Nabi Azad, who was one of the longest-serving general secretaries of the party.

The online meeting, chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, is expected to discuss the schedule for the upcoming internal elections of the party.

The chair of the Congress president has been with the Gandhi family uninterrupted for 24 years, since Ms. Gandhi took over in 1998. Rahul Gandhi served a two-year term from December 2017 to July 2019.

Split wide open: Ghulam Nabi Azad, left, had criticised Rahul Gandhi and called the election process a farce. •FILE PHOTO

Election schedule

The CWC is meeting to endorse the election schedule. The election of Congress president that was to end by September 20 is likely to be delayed by a few weeks with the party focused on the Bharat Jodo Yatra and some State units not completing the formalities.

Mr. Azad, in his resignation letter, had criticised Mr. Gandhi's "immaturity", and called the party's election process a farce and an attempt to "foist" a non-serious individual at the helm of the party.

All three Gandhi-family members – Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – are expected to join the online meeting from abroad.

According to sources, Congress leader Anand Sharma, another member of the G-23, will also be in attendance.

Amid speculation that Mr. Sharma will follow in the footsteps of Mr. Azad, the Congress leader said that he had no such plans and would remain with the party.

Speaking to presspersons on Friday, hours after Mr. Azad's resignation was made public, Mr. Sharma said that the resignation was avoidable if the party had abided by the decisions arrived at at a meeting on December 20, 2020.

The Gandhi family, reaching out to the dissenting group, the G-23, which had written a letter seeking reforms in the party, had listened to their suggestions.

Tewari's comments

Manish Tewari, Lok Sabha MP from Punjab, on Saturday reiterated Mr. Sharma's comments. He said, "A crack seems to have appeared in coordination between India and Congress that existed since 1885. A self-introspection was needed. I feel that had the consensus of the meeting at Sonia Gandhi's residence on 20th December 2020 been executed, this situation wouldn't have arrived."

Calling Mr. Azad's resignation unfortunate and regrettable, he said, "I don't want to go into the merit of Mr. Azad's letter. But it is strange that people who don't have the capacity to fight even a ward election, were peons of Congress leaders are giving wisdom about the party. It is laughable for want of a better word."

Mr. Tewari refused to comment on speculation about his own impending exit.

The Gandhi family loyalists are calling the claims made by Mr. Azad in his resignation letter "entirely baseless".

Mr. Azad called Ms. Gandhi a "nominal figurehead", alleging that all important decisions were being taken by Mr. Gandhi "or rather worse his security guards and PAs".

A CWC member close to the family said, "To say that Congress president can be remote-controlled by anyone is blatantly untrue. She is extremely decisive and even Rahul Gandhi can not get his way around her till he is able to convince her with sound reasons."

Sentiments such as this are expected to play out in the meeting on Sunday.

CJI Lalit has got big plans lined up for his short term

He intends to have all 15 of the two-judge Benches working

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

With little more than two months till retirement on November 8, the 49th Chief Justice of India, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, is looking at a tenure that is set to be a race against time – especially given the holiday-heavy court schedule this time of the year.

While September is a full working month, the court is scheduled to work for only 14 days in October. However, if the CJI wills it and other judges cooperate, cases can be heard through the Dasara and Deepavali vacations. Chief Justice Khehar (as he was then) heard the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) case through the summer vacations of the court in 2015.

Certain statements made by him have suggested that he intends to meet head-on the challenges confronting the Supreme Court.

The past few days have seen the new CJI provide glimpses into his plans. For one, he has listed 25 Constitution Bench cases for hearing from August 29, his first working day as the top judge.

These include the challenge to the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 that provided for reservations for economically weaker sections, WhatsApp privacy policy issue and pleas related to jallikattu.

Speeding up: Justice U.U. Lalit signing the register after swearing-in as the Chief Justice of India on Saturday. •PTI

Constitution Bench

The last time a Constitution Bench assembled was between March and May 2021 in the Maratha reservation case.

Former Chief Justice N.V. Ramana's tenure did not see a single Constitution Bench being formed.

Chief Justice Lalit has further promised that at least one Constitution Bench will function throughout the year.

The top judge has also assured transparency in listing of cases so that lawyers are not kept in the dark about the fate of their cases. He has promised lawyers that they would be given every opportunity to directly approach the Bench concerned to seek early hearing in cases seeking urgent relief, for example bail pleas.

The CJI has already begun to address the alarming pendency of over 71,000 cases in the apex court by creating more Benches. He will soon have 15 Benches of two-judge combinations functioning from Tuesday to Thursday every week.

"I want all the 15 Benches functioning," Chief Justice Lalit said.

However, it is to be seen whether he will use his short tenure to make any judicial appointments to the top court.

A relatively short tenure of six months as the 41st Chief Justice of India did not stop Justice R.M. Lodha from successfully initiating the appointment of two senior advocates directly to the Supreme Court Bench, one of them being Justice Lalit himself.

However, Chief Justice Lalit may also leave it to Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who would be his successor as per the seniority norm and has a tenure of 24.5 months, to make appointments. There are currently 30 judges in the Supreme Court, four fewer than the total sanctioned strength of 34.

Fixed tenure for judges

Justice Lalit's case brings to the fore the debate on having a fixed tenure for Chief Justices of India. This would help them plan and put into action reforms.

In fact, as of now, Justice Chandrachud would have the longest tenure among the next six Chief Justices of India. Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is in line to be India's first woman Chief Justice, would have a tenure of only a little over a month as top judge.

Chief Justice Lalit, when asked by *The Hindu* in a recent interview about extending the retirement age of judges from 65 to 67 and fixity of tenure, said it was a matter of policy for the lawmakers to decide.

Azad's return keeps J&K parties on their toes

It could upset the electoral calculus, dent political ambitions of smaller parties from Kashmir Valley

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A day after former Congress leader and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said that he would launch a new party soon, local political players were on edge on Saturday as the decision could change the electoral calculus in the Union Territory.

So far, the BJP and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have maintained silence over Mr. Azad's decision to quit the Congress and his likely move to launch a new political party from Jammu and Kashmir.

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was seen cosying up to Mr. Azad, in an apparent bid to blunt any further division of Muslim votes in Jammu and Kashmir. He even criticised the Congress leaders who attacked Mr. Azad for his relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the latter's tearful speech when Mr. Azad completed his term in the Rajya Sabha.

"Our doors are open for him. He has always been a nationalist and worked for the betterment of the country," Dr. Abdullah said.

On the contrary, NC vice-president Omar Abdullah sounded more sympathetic towards the Congress, as his personal relationship with Rahul Gandhi is well known. "Perhaps the senior-most leader to quit the party in recent times, his resignation letter makes for very painful reading. It's sad, and quite scary, to see the Grand Old Party of India implode," the junior Abdullah tweeted.

Electoral arithmetic

Mr. Azad, who hails from Doda district in the Chenab Valley, has mostly won his elections from this hilly region and has relatively less appeal in the Kashmir Valley. The Chenab Valley comprises Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda districts, which has a mix of Hindu-Muslim population spread across eight Assembly constituencies. After the recent delimitation exercise, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's strength has risen to 90 seats.

Mr. Azad could easily spoil the electoral arithmetic of the regional parties in the Chenab Valley, with Muslim votes likely to get split among the NC, PDP, Apni Party, Congress and Mr. Azad's party. Any Hindu vote consolidation will benefit the BJP.

More than for the NC and the PDP, Mr. Azad's entry is worrisome for smaller parties such as the Peoples Conference and the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, which had been nursing ambitions to be king-makers or even throw up Chief Minister-probables, if the BJP falls short of numbers in the Assembly election.

Mr. Azad is emerging as a more bankable Muslim Chief Ministerial-face for the BJP, whose first attempt would be to have a Hindu Chief Minister by winning 50-plus seats. This could dent the political ambitions of the smaller parties from the Kashmir valley in its wake. The regional parties, especially the smaller ones, will also find it hard to keep their flock together. Mr. Azad will attract leaders from these parties to widen his base in the future in the Kashmir valley.

Azad tasked with splitting votes: Karra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Senior Congress leader and former MP Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday said Ghulam Nabi Azad's exit from the Congress was "under a design to fragment franchise".

"A new entity is being floated to fragment franchise. Everyone knows who will benefit from it. There is already a public perception that the BJP will benefit out it," Mr. Karra said.

Mr. Karra said the things in Congress for Mr. Azad started changing soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that he "will not be wasted" and "will soon be appointed for a special mission".

"Only the mediocre have joined Mr. Azad so far. I did not see any intellectuals. Mr. Azad feels threatened if an intelligent person or a leader with stature joins him," Mr. Karra said.

He accused Mr. Azad of "working independently in Jammu and Kashmir" for the past few months. "There is no mention of ideological differences anywhere in Azad's resignation letter. It is purely on personal grounds," Mr. Karra added.

Mr. Karra also listed the BJP's treatment of Mr. Azad in the past, which includes granting his official bungalow and Padma Bhushan.

"The new found bonhomie is very clear and it is only after that the thing starts unfolding," Mr. Karra added.

Scamsters sketch escape route through works of art

DHFL officials, Nirav Modi used this method

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Investment in expensive works of art and other valuables seems to have emerged as a favourite option for businessmen looking to divert proceeds of bank loan scams, the latest example being the ₹34,615-crore case against Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) and its promoters.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has found that the two principal accused in the case – then DHFL chairman-cum-managing director Kapil Wadhawan and director Dheeraj Wadhawan – had bought at least two paintings worth nearly ₹30 crore. They were seized from the 15th floor of the property of co-accused Ajay Ramesh Nawandar in Andheri West of Mumbai on July 9.

As it turns out, during the searches, the agency had allegedly seized the two paintings apart from ₹45 lakh in cash and 25 expensive watches from Mr. Nawandar's premises.

An investigation revealed that the paintings were bought through an entity named JVPD One Builder from Asta Guru Auction House Private Ltd. in 2013, according to the agency.

The agency alleges that the paintings were acquired from the proceeds of defrauded loan amounts taken from a consortium of 17 banks led by the Union Bank of India.

A painting seized by the CBI in the ₹34,615-crore bank fraud case involving DHFL. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Another prominent case in which probe agencies had seized paintings and luxurious items was the one against fugitive Nirav Modi, his uncle Mehul Choksi and others. The accused persons cheated the Punjab National Bank of about ₹13,578 crore.

In March 2020, the ED auctioned 15 paintings linked to Mr. Modi and his wife Ami Modi. They included Amrita Sher-Gil's *Boys with Lemons* (1935), which fetched ₹15.68 crore; M.F. Husain's *Battle of Ganga and Jamuna: Mahabharata 12*, which were sold for ₹13.44 crore; a Raja Ravi Varma's work (₹2.8 crore); a V.S. Gaitonde's painting (₹9.52 crore); and Manjit Bawa's *Untitled* (₹6.16 crore).

PURABI DAIRY
West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2022-23/06 Dated: 28th August, 2022
E-procurement Tender Notice
The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following items from the eligible bidder as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Category	Date of publishing tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	Milk Crates (12 litre capacity)	31-08-2022	29-09-2022
2	Transport service for Cattle feed	01-09-2022	30-09-2022

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum will be issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.
Sd/- Managing Director

सीएसआईआर–संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केंद्र
CSIR-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
सी.एस.आई.आर रोड CSIR Road, तरमणि Taramani, चेन्नै Chennai - 600 113.
अधिसूचना सं Notification No.SE-5/2022 & SE-6/2022
कनिष्ठ अनुसंधान फेलो & परियोजना सहयोगी (I / II) की परिनियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किया जाता है। Applications are invited for Engagement of Junior Research Fellow & Project Associates (I & II)
कनिष्ठ अनुसंधान फेलो की परिनियुक्ति के लिए वॉक–इन–साक्षात्कार की तिथि / Date of Walk-in-interview for Junior Research Fellow: 14th September 2022 (Wednesday)
परियोजना सहयोगी (I & II) की परिनियुक्ति के लिए वॉक–इन–साक्षात्कार की तिथि / Date of Walk-in-interview for Project Associates (I& II) : 13th September 2022 (Tuesday)
विस्तृत अधिसूचना के लिए हमारे वेबसाइट www.serc.res.in के होम पेज में 'Recruitment' पर क्लिक करें For detailed Notification, please visit our website www.serc.res.in and click on 'Recruitment' from the Home Page.
प्रशासन नियंत्रक / CONTROLLER OF ADMINISTRATION

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited by the Chief Medical Superintendent, Southern Railway, Salem - 636005 for the following work:
1) Tender Notice Number and date: GEM Bid No. GEM / 2022 / B / 2462621 Dated: 24.08.2022; 2) Name of work: Outcome Based Maintenance of cleanliness of Railway Divisional Office at Salem for a period of three years; 3) Estimate Value: ₹ 53,75,072/-; 4) Tender Closing Date and Time: 14.09.2022 at 16.00 Hrs., 5) Tender Opening Date and Time: 14.09.2022 at 16.30 Hrs; 6) Website address: http://www.gem.gov.in
The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tender are given on the GeM portal "www.gem.gov.in". For details regarding bid submission, scope of work, approximate value of tender, location, documents to be uploaded etc., please refer website portal "www.gem.gov.in".
Chief Medical Superintendent, Salem - 636 005
Follow us on twitter.com/GMSRailway

LOOK OUT NOTICE
Pratheesh Kumar Pillai T S/o. Thankappan Pillai, Thottathilveedu, Kulakkada, Kollam, Dist, Kerala State. The above furnished photograph is that of Mr. Pratheesh Kumar Pillai. T, S/o Thankappan Pillai, Thottathil veedu, Kulakkada, Kollam Dist, Kerala state. He is the Prime accused in various cheating cases now under Investigation in Crime Branch, Kollam Unit (Cr.290/CB/KLM & PTA/2019, Cr.340/CB/KLM & PTA/2019, Cr.341/CB/KLM & PTA/2019, Cr.342/CB/KLM & PTA/2019). The above said accused is absconding as of now.
If anyone receive any informations with respect to him are requested to kindly intimate in the following numbers.
1.Detective Inspector, Crime Branch Kollam : 9497987265
2.Detective Sub Inspector, Crime Branch Kollam : 9497930855
(RO/02157/2/2022/I&PRD)

उ. प्र. उर्दू अकादमी, लखनऊ
(उ. प्र. सरकार)
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Last Date for Online Form Submission : 30.09.2022
Date of Admission Test : 16.10.2022
Please Contact Between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm
S.M. ADIL HASAN, SECRETARY — SHAFQAT KAMAL (Retired IAS), DIRECTOR — CHAUDHARY KAIFUL WARA, CHAIRMAN

APPOINTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: RIMS ADILABAD
(SEMI-AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
No.168/RIMS-ADB/EST/2022 Date : 27.08.2022
WALK-IN INTERVIEW
Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), PMSSY Super Specialty Hospital, Adilabad, Telangana State, invites applications for the posts of Assistant Professors in various Super Specialty Departments, CAS-RMO and CMO on purely contract basis. The candidates may appear for Walk-in interview with original certificates and two sets of Photo copies. Merit and ROR will be followed wherever applicable. For more details please visit in Website: rimsadilabad.in (or) dme.telangana.gov.in.
PMSSY SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL : ADILABAD : Name of the Department, Asst. Prof. Vacant posts: (1). Cardiology-4, (2). Urology-1, (3). Neuro Surgery - 1, (4). Paediatric Surgery- 1, (5). Radiology-2, (6). Anaesthesiology-13, (7). Cardio Thoracic & Vascular Surgery-2, (8). Nephrology-2, (9). Neurology-2, (10). Medical Gastroenterology-2, (11). Medical Oncology-2, (01).CAS-RMO (MBBS)-3, (02). CMO (MBBS)-5.
Walk-in Interview will be conducted at Director office, RIMS, Adilabad, Telangana State on 09.09.2022 (Friday) from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM. For more details contact Ph. No. 08732-220521& 08732-220524, Cell. No.94400 57799 any query please contact: rimsadilabad@yahoo.com.
Sd/- Director, RIMS, Adilabad — Sd/- District Collector, Adilabad
DIPR R.O. No. : 593-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI
SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, TIRUPATI :: NOTIFICATION No.06/2022
Roc. No.File No.TTD-99021(31)/5/2022/RECTS SEC., TTD
NAME OF THE POST: CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER IN SVIMS
NUMBER OF POST: ONE (01); LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 13-09-2022., PERSONS PROFESSING HINDU RELIGION SHALL ONLY ELIGIBLE.
For further details such as age, scale of pay, qualifications and other terms and conditions, please visit TTD website www.tirumala.org.
Roc.No.PR4/13945/Adv.No.195/PRO/2022, DT.27-08-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
(Training Wing) Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032
Ref.No.26850/Pur.2/2022 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dt: 24/08/2022
Sealed Tenders in Two cover system are invited from Indian manufacturers/ Authorized Dealer for the supply of Machineries & Equipment (for the trades of Electrician, Fitter, Leather Goods Maker, Machinist, Machinist(Grinder), Mechanic Diesel, Mechanic Tractor, MMV, Pump operator cum Mechanic, Refrigeration and Air conditioning, Sewing Technology, Sheet metal worker, Tool & Die Maker, Turner and Welder)for Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) functioning at various places in Tamil Nadu.
The details of Machineries & Equipment to be procured along with specifications are mentioned in the tender documents. Which can be downloaded from the Government tender website www.tenders.tn.gov.in or www.skilltraining.tn.gov.in at free of cost.

1	Tender inviting authority	The Joint Director (S.A.M.C) O/o Director of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai 32
2	EMD	1% of the total quoted amount in respect of Each schedule.
3	Conditions	As stipulated in the tender document
4	Sale of tender document	29.08.2022 to 30.09.2022 up to 11 AM (on all working days)
5	Last date for receipt of tender	30.09.2022 up to 3.00 PM
6	Date, time and place of opening the tender	30.09.2022 at 3.30 PM, Conference Hall, Director of Employment and Training, Chennai - 32
7	Pre-bid meeting	12-09-2022 at 11.30 AM at the above venue

DIPR/ 3883 / TENDER /2022 — Joint Director (S.A.M.C) / Tender Inviting Authority

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE
Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
Identification No. 22/2022-23 Dt. 25.08.2022
The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P1 contract with design and execution of the following Piped Water Supply Projects.
1. Nos. of Work : 02 Nos RPWS Schemes in Balasore District
2. Estimated cost : Rs.43.23 lakhs & Rs.163.58 lakhs
3. Period of completion : 330 days
4. Availability of bid document in Portal : Dt.02.09.2022 at 16.00 hours to 16.09.2022 up to 17.00 hours through online.
5. Seeking of Clarification : Dt.05.09.2022 at 11.00 hours to Dt. 12.09.2022 up to 15.00 hours
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.17.09.2022 at 11.00 hours in the O/O E.E., RWSS Division, Balasore.
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender. : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore
Bid Cost will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT/RTGS.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : http://tendersodisha.gov.in
O-891 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE.
OIPR-25013/11/0015/2223

More Muslim women are opting for 'khhula', their right to 'instant divorce'

In Mumbai city, there were 900 cases in recent years; there were nearly 5,000 in Bihar-Jharkhand in 2020-21, show data from the Darul Qazas

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

More Muslim marriages end with *khhula*, the woman's inalienable right to instant divorce, and not, as it's widely perceived, through instant triple *talaq*, which was set aside by a Supreme Court verdict in 2017, or *talaq-e-hassan*, divorce at the man's initiative. Data available at the Imarat-e-Shariah's Darul Qaza or Islamic arbitration centres show most cases of divorce are filed through the *khhula* method, and an increasingly larger number of women are opting to end their marriage through *khhula*.

Unlike *talaq*, which is pronounced by the man, in the case of *khhula*, it's the woman who initiates divorce, and surrenders her *mehr* (wealth transferred or promised to the woman at the time of marriage) at the time of such a divorce. *Khhula* can be effected orally or through a document called the *Khhulnama*. It has the effect of an instant divorce. If the *mehr* had not been given to the woman by the time she opted for *khhula*, she cannot demand the *mehr* as the marriage is being called off at her behest.

While cases of *talaq-e-biddat* are automatically ruled out due to the very nature of the act, there are few cases coming to the Islamic arbitration centres of women complaining against cases of *talaq-e-hassan*, the pronouncement of three divorces separated by at least a month between each pronouncement, or even *mubarat*, which is mutual divorce granted to a Muslim couple by the Shariah.

"In the last Islamic year corresponding to 2021-22, we had 572 cases in Imarat Shariah Markaz. Almost all cases were of *khhula* with only a handful of *mubarat* cases and none of *triple talaq*," Anzar Alam Qasmi, the chief *quazi* responsible for deciding issues of marriage and divorce at the famed

SPECIAL

Imarat-e-Shariah in Patna, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Qasmi speaks only of the Imarat Shariah headquarters. Data from all such centres in Bihar-Jharkhand show a bigger picture. In 2020-21, corresponding roughly to the 1443 Islamic calendar, there were nearly 5,000 cases of *khhula* at all Darul Qazas. The data show

Women's right *Khhula* can be effected orally or through a document called the *Khhulnama*. • REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

a similar rising trend in Delhi and Mumbai.

"From 2019 to 2021, there were 300 cases of *khhula* at Darul Qaza on Mira Road. In Mumbai city, there were 900 cases in recent years. There are five Darul Qazas in Mumbai. Every year, 300 cases of *khhula* are resolved at these centres. The most cases, around one hundred, come from the Mumbai city centre," Azimuddin Sayed, president, Darul Qaza Committee, said.

The Madrasa Islamia Arabia in Muzaffarnagar district, which had never received cases of *khhula* until 2017, now receives three or four cases of it every month. Similar figures were reported from the Riyazul Uloom recently. The cases are referred to the Deoband for further arbitration.

"Most cases come in instances of marriages through online contact. Most *khhula* cases are reported in the first two years of marriage. Only rarely do we get cases of *khhula* after five years of marriage," Mr. Azimuddin said.

"More than half of the cases end on an amicable note with the parties opting for reconciliation rather than divorce. When a woman first files for *khhula*, we initially counsel her. If she is still firm on the decision, we speak to her husband. Finally, in lieu of *khhula*, the woman has to give something to the man. We call it *khhula badle maal*," Mr. Qasmi said. "The Kerala High Court granted Muslim women the right to annul marriage under *khhula* through extrajudicial means in 2021 and the Darul Qazas have gained in importance since," he added.

Across the country, Darul Qazas provide timely and cost-effective ways to end unhappy marriages. "Many cases of *khhula* are resolved within an hour or two. Up to 70% cases are settled with two months. Only a handful take six months or more, when the man does not respond to the notices sent to him," Mr. Qasmi said.

However, some *quazis* insist that *khhula* can be obtained only through the husband's consent. They feel the husband is not bound to agree to the divorce proposed by his wife. "They stress the man's right even in cases of *khhula*. According to them, *khhula* cannot be completed if the man does not agree. It defeats the purpose of *khhula* if a woman cannot find a way out of an abusive marriage. There are Hadith (scriptures) giving woman a clear right to end an unhappy marriage," said Uzma Nahid, former member of the All India Muslim Personal Board, who parted ways with the body on the issue of women's rights in the case of *nikahnama* and divorce.

Intel agencies seek law on crypto deals

Exchanges must be mandated to report suspicious transactions, officials tell Home Minister

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Investigation and intelligence agencies of the government are pressing the Centre to list cryptocurrency exchanges distinctly under the existing regulatory mechanism, thus making it mandatory for the exchanges to proactively share information regarding suspicious transactions with the police and other law enforcement authorities.

On August 17, the issue was discussed at the National Security Strategies Conference in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.

A senior government official said that it had emerged during investigation in the past few months that several Chinese shell companies, which operate digital loan mobile apps in India, sent funds out of India through the crypto exchanges.

Practical hurdles: Most of the crypto exchanges do not have a physical office and the data storage is cloud-based. • REUTERS

"Ownership of cryptocurrency exchanges, operated in India, by Chinese companies is not yet on record," the official said.

At present, the authorities can seek information from such exchanges only after a criminal case has been registered.

The official said that though the law-enforcement agencies and the police were authorised to seek information under Section 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), on many occasions, in the absence of a first information report (FIR), crucial information could not be sought from these exchanges.

At the conference, the Intelligence Bureau gave a presentation on the challenges posed by crypto exchanges. An official said most of the exchanges did not have a physical office and the data storage was cloud-based.

The agencies were seeking powers akin to those available under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to get information from the exchanges.

"There is no specific law to make the crypto exchanges report suspicious transactions. The reporting entities such as a bank, wallets, etc. have to be distinctly mentioned in the law for them to report such activities," the official said.

Regulation over ban

Recently, the Enforcement Directorate, while investigating a case, froze assets worth ₹370 crore of Flipvolt and allied companies in a money laundering case and assets worth ₹65 crore of another such exchange, WazirX.

On July 18, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended a ban on cryptocurrencies citing "destabilising effects" for the country's monetary and fiscal health, but a law to regulate or ban cryptocurrencies can only be effective once there is some form of international agreement in place.

At the conference, the Home Minister was informed of an urgent need for regulation and empowering investigating agencies with the power to obtain information from cryptocurrency exchanges and urge them "to proactively share intelligence on suspicious flows with police or intelligence agencies," the official said.

Going in '12 seconds': Noida towers charged for implosion

3,700 kg of explosives to bring down illegal construction

ISHITA MISHRA
NOIDA

India is all set to witness the biggest demolition of a structure with the flattening of two towers in Noida at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday.

The towers, taller than Qutb Minar, were illegally built by the private builder Supertech on the green area of its multi-storey housing society called Emerald Court in Sector 93A. The Supreme Court in August 2021 ordered the demolition on a PIL petition filed by the Resident Welfare Association of Emerald Court, a residential society that was proposed to have 14 towers of nine floors each on 11 acres of land.

The Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering and its South African partner firm, Jet Demolitions, have placed 3,700 kg of explosives to bring down the two buildings, Apex (32 storeys) and Ceyane (29 storeys), in a mere 12 seconds. Nearly 100 workers are in the demolition team. Chetan Dutta, blaster, will press the button after which the twin towers will fall to rubble.

Mayur Mehta, project head from Edifice Engineering, told *The Hindu* that the buildings would fall inwards like a cascade and each floor would come down one after another. The building was in a skeleton state as windows, grilles, doors, wiring and plumbing had been removed.

The total cost of demolition is ₹20 crore, which would be incurred by Supertech. The two buildings had over 900 flats that would have earned the builder a profit of over ₹100 crore, sources from the NOIDA Authority said.

Dead end: The demolition of the towers will result in 80,000 tonnes of debris. • R.V. MOORTHY

Safety measures

For the demolition, the 5,000 residents of Emerald Court and the neighbouring ATS Greens Village have been asked to vacate their homes on Sunday, from early morning till 4.30 p.m.

Talking about the safety measures, U.B.S. Teotia, president of the resident welfare association of Emerald Court, said that arrangements had been made to accommodate them in nearby clubs, while some have opted to stay in hotels or at relatives' places.

Roads leading to the towers have been shut for the entire day, while a section of the Noida Expressway adjacent to the area has been blocked for an hour.

The area has been declared a no-fly zone and 400 police personnel have been deployed, Rajesh S., Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, said. "The three neighbouring residential towers have been covered with geotextile fabric. The dust will spread but efforts will be made to minimise it," he added.

Secure Bhagat Singh files, says historian

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

As Punjab and Delhi have adopted Bhagat Singh and B.R. Ambedkar, respectively, as the official icons of their governments, Chaman Lal, a former Senate member of Panjab University and honorary adviser to the Bhagat Singh Archives and Resource Centre in Delhi, has urged them to acquire the 135 files related to Bhagat Singh's court cases from the Punjab Archives at the Anarkali tomb in Lahore.

"A digital copy of the same may be provided to Bhagat Singh Archives in Delhi and maximum [number of Indian] Universities for the purpose of research," Mr. Lal said in his letter.

On March 23, 2018, for the first time, the Lahore archives conducted a month-long exhibition of more than 200 items from the Bhagat Singh files, and there is a plan to digitise them. The records comprise thousands of pages of documents, photographs and other material, include many unrevealed aspects of Punjab's history.

Repeat NEET for students subjected to frisking ordeal

Affected girl students to take the test on September 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has decided to conduct the NEET for undergraduate medical admissions again for girl candidates who were allegedly forced to remove their inner wear before entering a test centre in Kollam district of Kerala last month, official sources said on Saturday.

The re-test will be held on September 4, the sources said. The NTA has allowed the affected students to reappear for the National Eligibility Entrance Test on September 4 in Kollam. Besides Kollam, re-test will be held for the affected candidates of two centres in Rajasthan, two in Madhya Pradesh and one in Uttar Pradesh, they said.

The issue of forcing the girls to remove their inner wear before entering a test centre in Kollam district on July 17 created a huge uproar across the country. Seven people were arrested for the incident thereafter.

The issue came to light when the father of a 17-year-old girl told presspersons that his daughter, who was sitting for her first NEET, was yet to come out of the traumatic experience of having to sit for the over three-hour exam after the ordeal.

The NTA formed a committee to hold an inquiry.

SUDOKU

3		6			1			
			7	5		1		
4	1					9		
2		7		1				6
	4						3	
9				7		5		1
		4					7	2
		2		4	6			
			2			4		8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	5	3	8	9	2	7	4
8	7	4	5	2	1	3	6	9
9	2	3	4	6	7	1	5	8
5	9	1	2	4	3	6	8	7
3	4	2	8	7	6	5	9	1
7	8	6	1	9	5	4	2	3
4	3	7	6	5	8	9	1	2
1	6	8	9	3	2	7	4	5
2	5	9	7	1	4	8	3	6

Staff shortage affects Kendriya Vidyalayas

Lack of career advancement, transfer policy leave principals bitter, as teaching vacancies climb to 12,044

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Over 40% of the Kendriya Vidyalayas do not have a principal. The shortage of teachers, too, has more than doubled in the past three years as COVID-19 has stopped recruitments for these schools especially meant for children of Union government employees, including defence and paramilitary personnel.

Several principals who spoke to *The Hindu*, on the condition of anonymity, said they were "bitter and frustrated", and complained of "employee unrest" as some of them were forced to work double shifts. There was no scheme for career progression or a transfer policy leading to many spending "five to seven years" at far-flung stations, they added.

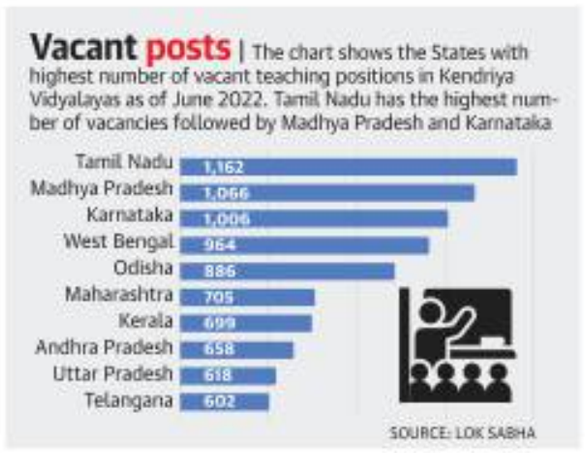
They complain of a "policy paralysis" as the academic performance of these schools in Class 10 and 12 Board exams has dropped from the top position to third between 2019 and 2022. There is a need to bridge learning losses due to COVID-19.

A Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) official said fresh recruitment would be undertaken within this academic year.

Of the 1,247 such schools in the country, 250 are of Grade 2, which do not require a principal and are headed by a vice-principal. Of the remaining nearly 1,000, 420 don't have a principal, staff sources said.

In Parliament in July, Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi said vacant teaching positions in these schools stood at 12,044 in June. In 2019, this figure was 5,562. A total of 9,161 contractual teachers have been engaged to fill the gap.

According to the KVS Annual Report 2020-21, there were 46,335 sanctioned posts for teachers. The widening staffing gap comes at a time when there is a consistent rise in student enrolment, marking an increase of 13% to 13.8 lakh in 2021 from 12.2 lakh in 2017, according to the report.



Nearly 70 of these schools run double shifts, as there is a large concentration of Union government employees and massive demand from students in places such as New Delhi. Though there are different sets of teaching staff and administrative staff including vice-principals for such schools, the same principal has to work in both the shifts for which they get a compensation of ₹10,000, said one principal who heads one such school.

Half the non-teaching posts too are vacant, forcing teachers to perform clerical duties, another principal said.

There are no schemes for career advancement or transfer norms for the principals.

Twenty principals in hard and very-hard stations had to move court as they had spent five to seven years in the post instead of the mandatory two or three, one principal said.

'Recruitment this year'

In response to queries e-mailed to the KVS, a senior official said, "The last recruitment drive was completed in 2019. Due to the COVID outbreak, all over the country, the recruitment process could not be taken up. KVS Recruitment process is a specialised task with a combination of written exam, interview and skill test. The process of fresh recruitment will start within this academic year for appointment of regular staff."

The official added that "contractual teachers were engaged on a short-term basis" to fill the gap.

NIT students to stay indoors for Pak. match

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A day ahead of the India-Pakistan cricket match, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar on Saturday warned students against posting match-related messages on social media or leaving their hostel rooms during the match.

India and Pakistan will play the opening match of Asia Cup 2022 on Sunday.

"During the matches, the students are directed to remain in their allotted rooms and not to allow a group of other students to enter their rooms and watch the matches in groups. If a group of students were watching a match in a particular room, then the students of that particular room will be debarred from the institute's hostel accommodation," a NIT notice reads.

It warned of imposing ₹5000 as fine.

Flood-ravaged Pakistan to deploy Army to assist in rescue

Death toll nears 1,000 with 33 mn hit; officials order evacuation of thousands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has decided to call in the Army to help in the rescue and relief operations after many parts of the country were ravaged by the worst floods in more than a decade that has affected more than 33 million people, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday.

On Saturday, authorities ordered thousands of residents in threatened areas to evacuate their homes as rivers had still not reached maximum capacity.

So far, 982 people have been killed due to floods across Pakistan. As many as 45 persons died in the last 24 hours, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). "Another 1,456 persons were hurt, with 113 injuries reported in the last 24 hours," it said.

Interior Minister Sanaullah said the armed forces were being deployed in the wake of the floods. He said the troops have been called in under Article 245 of the Constitution, which empowers the government to summon the Army in aid of the civilian administration to deal with an emergency.

Timely help: Pakistan Army personnel distributing food to people in Punjab province. • AFP

The exact number of troops and area of deployment would be worked out by respective provincial governments in consultation with the military, according to a notification.

The calamity has badly hit the infrastructure of the country with the NDMA reporting that more than 3,161 km of road were damaged and 149 bridges swept away, while 6,82,139 houses were totally or partially damaged.

Floods triggered by unprecedented monsoon rains have submerged over half of the country, leaving more than 5.7 million without shelter and food in 110 districts.

Sindh and Balochistan provinces have been worst hit by the disaster and Pakistan Railway has suspended its operation at several places while Pakistan International Airlines also halted on Friday its flights to Quetta.

Minister for Environment Sherry Rehman said that while Pakistan normally witnesses about three to four spells of torrential rains every year, it has this year so far been hit by eight monsoon spells and more downpour is expected

FBI: Trump mixed top secret documents with magazines

Affidavit offers details of govt. records stored at his home

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Fourteen of the 15 boxes recovered from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate early this year contained classified documents, many of them top secret, mixed in with miscellaneous newspapers, magazines and personal correspondence, according to an FBI affidavit released on Friday.

No space at Mr. Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate was authorised for the storage of classified material, according to the court papers, which laid out the FBI's rationale for searching the property this month, including "probable cause to believe that evidence of obstruction will be found."

The 32-page affidavit – heavily redacted to protect the safety of witnesses and law enforcement officials and "the integrity of the ongoing investigation" – offers the most detailed description to date of the government records being stored at Mar-a-Lago long after Mr. Trump left the White House. It also reveals the gravity of

Donald Trump

the government's concerns that the documents were there illegally.

The document makes clear how the haphazard retention of top secret government records, and the failure to return them despite months of efforts by U.S. officials to get them back, has exposed Mr. Trump to fresh legal peril just as he lays the groundwork for another potential presidential run in 2024.

Criminal investigation

"The government is conducting a criminal investigation concerning the improper removal and storage of classified information in unauthorised spaces, as well as the unlawful concealment or removal of government records," an FBI agent wrote on the first page of the affidavit in seeking a judge's permission for a warrant to search the property.

Documents previously made public show that federal agents are investigating potential violations of three federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defence information under the Espionage Act. The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

Mr. Trump has long insisted, despite clear evidence to the contrary, that he fully cooperated with government officials. And he has rallied Republicans behind him by painting the search as a politically motivated witch hunt intended to damage his reelection prospects. He repeated that refrain on his social media site Friday, saying he and his representatives had had a close working relationship with the FBI and "GAVE THEM MUCH."

Ukraine nuclear plant back online

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, occupied by Moscow's troops, came back online on Friday, the state operator said after Kyiv claimed it was cut from the national power grid by Russian shelling.

The plant – Europe's largest nuclear facility – was severed on Thursday from Ukraine's power network for the first time in its four-decade history due to "actions of the invaders", Energoatom said.

The operator said that as of 2:04 p.m. (1104 GMT) the plant "is connected to the grid and produces electricity for the needs of Ukraine" once again.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country's nuclear experts had managed to protect the plant "from the worst case scenario which is constantly being provoked by Russian forces." But he added: "I want to underline that the situation remains very risky and dangerous."

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant has been cause for mounting concern since Russian troops seized it in early March.

12 killed as backers of rival groups clash in Libya capital

Small arms fire, explosions rock Tripoli; 6 hospitals damaged

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TRIPOLI

Clashes between backers of rival governments killed at least 12 people and damaged six hospitals in Libya's capital on Saturday, sparking fears that a political crisis could spiral into a major new conflict.

Small arms fire and explosions rocked several districts of Tripoli overnight and into Saturday, when smoke could be seen rising from damaged buildings.

Early on Saturday evening, the Health Ministry in Tripoli gave a preliminary toll of 12 dead and 87 wounded from the fighting.

Six hospitals were hit and ambulances were unable to reach areas affected by the clashes, the Ministry had said earlier, condemning "war crimes".

The Tripoli-based Government of National Unity (GNU), led by interim Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and a rival administration traded accusations over the clashes, with fears growing among many Libyans of a wider conflict over Libya's political standoff.

Any clashes between powerful Tripoli groups risk drawing in other factions, and Saturday's fighting has lasted longer than any other bout of violence in the city for months.

Fresh tensions: Smoke rising in the sky following clashes between rival groups in Tripoli, Libya, on Saturday. • REUTERS

UN calls for peace

The UN's Libya mission called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", citing "ongoing armed clashes including indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-populated neighbourhoods" that it said had damaged hospitals.

The U.S. Embassy in Libya said it was "very concerned" about the clashes.

Mr. Dbeibah's government, installed as part of a UN-led peace process following a previous round of violence, is challenged by a rival government led by former Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha.

Mr. Bashagha, who is backed by Libya's Parliament and eastern-based military strongman Khalifa Haftar, says the GNU's mandate has expired.

But he has so far been unable to take office in Tripoli, as Mr. Dbeibah has insisted on only handing power to an elected government.

Mr. Dbeibah's government accused Mr. Bashagha of "carrying out his threats" to seize Tripoli by force.

GNU said negotiations had been under way to "hold elections at the end of the year to resolve the political crisis", but that Mr. Bashagha had "walked out at the last moment".

Russia blocks agreement on UN nuclear treaty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Russia late on Friday blocked agreement on the final document of a four-week review of the UN treaty considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament which criticised its military takeover of Europe's largest nuclear plant soon after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, an act that has raised fears of a nuclear disaster.

Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, told the delayed final meeting of the conference reviewing the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that "unfortunately there is no consensus on this document." He insisted that many countries – not just Russia – didn't agree with "a whole host of issues" in the 36-page last draft.

The final document needed approval of all countries at the conference that are parties to the treaty aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Argentine Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, president of the conference, said the final draft represented his best efforts to address divergent views and the expectations of the parties "for a progressive outcome" at a moment in history when "our world is increasingly wracked by conflicts, and, most alarmingly, the ever growing prospect of the unthinkable nuclear war."

Second failure

The NPT review conference is supposed to be held every five years but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the second failure of its 191 state parties to produce an outcome document. The last review conference in 2015 ended without an agreement because of serious differences over establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Those differences haven't gone away but are being discussed, and the draft outcome documents obtained by the AP would have reaffirmed the importance of establishing a nuclear-free Mideast zone. So, this was not viewed as a major stumbling block this year.

Macron vows a 'new pact' with Algeria

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ALGIERS

French President Emmanuel Macron and his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Saturday declared a "new, irreversible dynamic of progress" in their nations' relations, concluding a visit by Mr. Macron aimed at ending months of tensions.

In a joint declaration, both leaders said, "France and Algeria have decided to open a new era... laying the foundation for a renewed partnership."

After vowing to "build a new pact", Mr. Macron concluded his three-day visit to Algeria in Oran city.

4 Indian-American women face racist attack in Texas

Suspect behind hate crime arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Indian American bodies on Friday condemned the racially-motivated physical and verbal assault on a group of four Indian Americans in Texas.

Esmeralda Upton from Plano in Texas was arrested for the hate crime against four South Asian women in a parking lot on Wednesday.

"The news of four Indian-origin women being harassed and abused with vile racial slurs in Plano, TX, has sent shock waves through the Indian-American community," said Sanjeev Joshipura from Indiaspora.

"The viral video captures the unreal encounter of four friends facing a tirade in a suburban parking lot, following their quiet dinner meet-up. We at Indiaspora strongly condemn this racial attack and reiterate our commitment to fighting discrimination and prejudice in all its forms," he said.

The attack is yet another in a string of deplorable anti-Asian hate crimes that have taken place over the past two years and comes on the heels of a similar incident involving the first India- American woman in Congress, Pramila Jaya, said Indian American Impact.

"Esmeralda Upton's dangerous and violent sentiments towards the South-Asian community should not be taken lightly. For legal purposes, we are lucky that the racist tirade was caught on camera, but her shameless display of hate towards members of our community is alarming and, unfortunately, not uncommon," said Indian-American Impact executive director, Neil Makhija.

Mr. Joshipura said the contributions of Indian-Americans as immigrants to the U.S. have been widely recognised, but those accolades feel less gratifying in the face of such episodes.

Russia-China cooperation in Arctic a concern: NATO

It challenges our interests: Stoltenberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TORONTO

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned on Saturday about Russia's military buildup in the Arctic and China's increasing interest in that part of the world.

During a visit to Canada's north, Mr. Stoltenberg said the shortest path to North America for Russian missiles and bombers is over the North Pole. He said Russia has set up a new Arctic Command and has opened hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites, including airfields and deep-water ports.

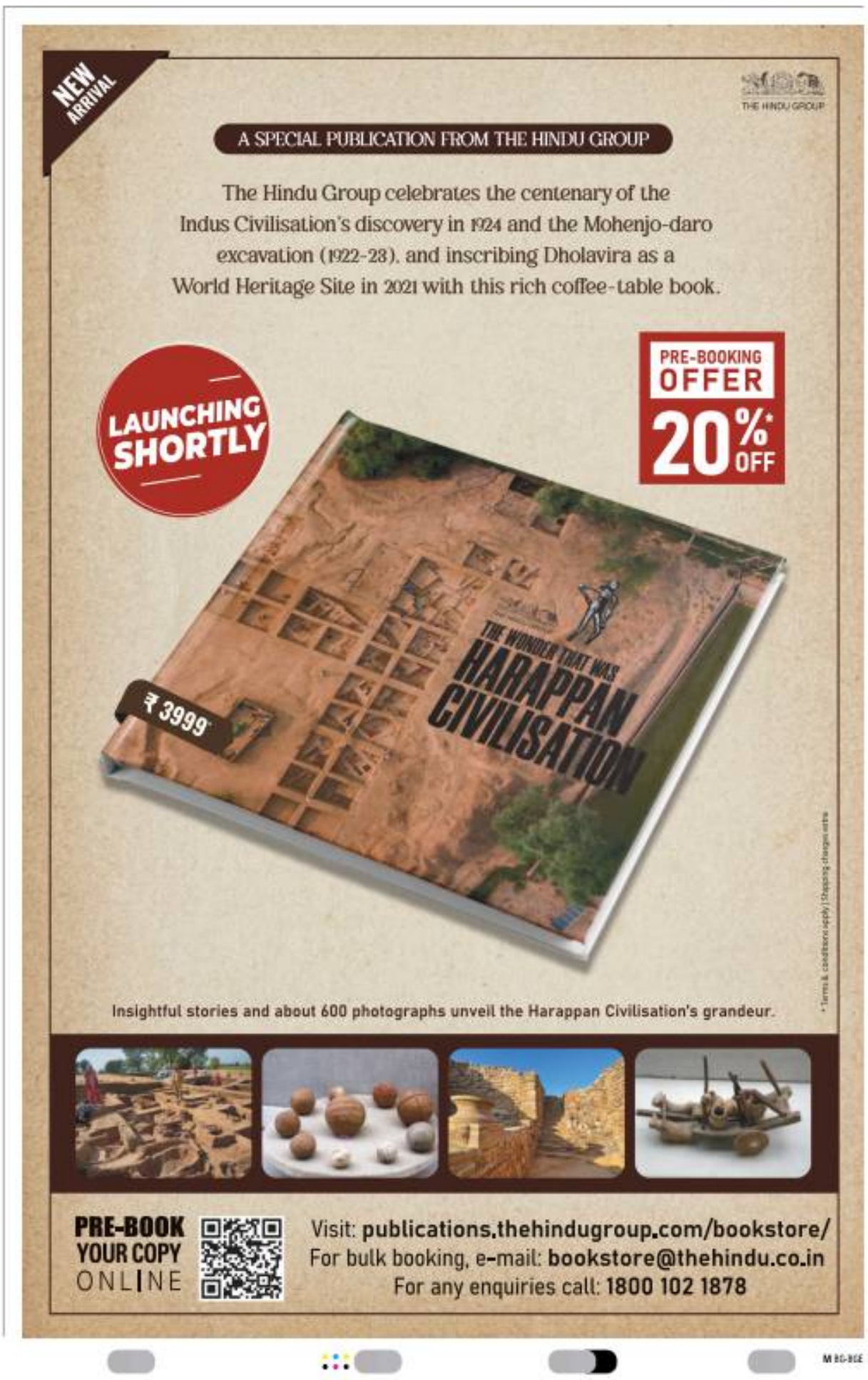
"We see a significant Russian military build-up with new bases, new weapons systems and also using the High North as a test bed for their most advanced weapons, including hypersonic missiles," Mr. Stoltenberg said at a Canadian military base in Cold Lake, Alberta.

Mr. Stoltenberg also noted China has declared itself a "near Arctic" state. He said Beijing plans to build the world's largest icebreaker and is spending tens of billions of dollars on energy, infrastructure and research projects in the north.

"Beijing and Moscow have also pledged to intensify practical cooperation in the Arctic. This forms part of a deepening strategic partnership that challenges our values and interests," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

He also noted climate change is making the Arctic more accessible for militaries and welcomed Canada's recent announcement that it will bolster its spending on defence.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who accompanied Mr. Stoltenberg, highlighted some of the spending and activities that Canada is making in the north. Those include promises to allocate billions of dollars for new military equipment and capabilities.



SNAPSHOTS

Return to Moon
The most powerful rocket ever built will soon launch, carrying the Orion capsule that NASA hopes will soon transport astronauts back to the Moon. If all goes as planned, NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) will launch on August 29, fly around the Moon. The rocket will return to Earth 42 days later, the farthest that any spacecraft has ever travelled.

HSV-1 virus
DNA extracted from ancient human teeth indicates that herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) — the cold-sore virus — was first seen in what is now Europe around 5,000 years ago. Changing cultural practices during the Bronze Age — including the emergence of romantic kissing — could have factored into HSV-1's meteoric rise.

Long COVID
More than two years after patients have been reported to suffer from Long COVID, the U.S. has unveiled a research plan to understand, prevent, and treat the broad range of persistent and sometimes debilitating disease symptoms. Long COVID is now known to affect 5% to 30% of people globally after initial SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Not benign
For a very long time, non-nutritive sweeteners have been promised to deliver all the sweetness of sugar with none of the calories. They are believed to have no ill effect on the human body. But researchers have found that sugar substitutes are not inert. In fact, some can alter human consumers' microbiomes in a way that can change their blood sugar levels.

Fruit fly: novel method to study nuclear matrix

The nuclear matrix is a scaffolding that helps package the genome differently in different types of cells

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Every cell that makes up an organism contains a copy of its genome. This genome is packaged in special ways with the help of a structure known as the nuclear matrix. The nuclear matrix gives an organisation and architecture to the nucleus. A familiar figure, the nuclear matrix of fruit flies, for instance, has been studied for many years, mainly by isolating it in nuclei that have been taken out from fruit fly embryos.

Now, using a novel method, a group of researchers from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad (CCMB) and Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bengaluru (TIGS), have established a way of studying the nuclear matrix of the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) without removing the nucleus from the embryo.

This allows comparative study of nuclear matrix in different cells within the embryo, giving a boost for fruit fly genetics.

Two of the most recent papers on this work have been published in the journals *Nucleus and Molecular* and *Cell Proteomics*.

Nuclear matrix

The nuclear matrix is like a scaffolding. Using biochemical means, if the nucleus is taken out and treated with an enzyme that digests all the DNA, then washed with a solution of high salt concentration so that viable DNA proteins or protein-protein interactions are removed, what is then left is a fibrous meshwork of proteins called the nuclear matrix. This is like a building from which all movables have been sucked out, leaving only the beams, ceiling, walls, plug points, etc.

Analogous to the building, the nuclear matrix creates the architecture in which the genome is packaged.

"The genome is in the nucleus, embedded and protected by the jelly-like nuclear matrix. This is a dynamic material providing access for the regulation of different genes in different cells. Studying the nuclear matrix is, therefore, very important to get a better picture of how precisely development progresses every time a new individual is born," says Prof. Shashidhara, an India developmental biologist working at IISER, Pune, who was not involved in this study.

Packaged differently

"We have 220 different types of cells in the body, but all contain identical genomes," says Dr. Rakesh Mishra, Director of TIGS, who led the research. "The same genome sequence is present in neurons, where it works for thinking; in the liver, the same sequence enacts metabolism; and in the intestine, it works to digest. So, this information is packaged differently in different cell types," he explains.

To give an example that justifies the different way in which the genome is folded and packaged in different types of cell, consider proteases. These are enzymes that digest proteins and are active in the intestine. The intestine contains a lining that prevents these enzymes from digesting the proteins present there, thereby protecting the intestine. The same are found in the brain cells also. If they were allowed to be active, they would digest the brain cells which do not have the protective epithelium, and that would be disastrous. So, the genome, despite carrying all the genetic material, is packaged such that some genetic material is hidden in such a way that it is never seen by transcription machinery.

"This can happen only by packaging in such a way that something becomes so dense and interior that it is not seen," says Dr. Mishra. "Our body has about 220 different kinds of cells. So, that means the same genome can be packaged in 220 different ways."

NuMat preparation

The researchers collect embryos which are between zero and 16 hours old. They make, for the first time, the *in situ* nuclear matrix preparation using this entire collection of embryos. Then, they image them. Some are in very early developmental stages, where they are made up of nuclei only, or just making a mono layer of nuclei across the embryos or have gone through differentiation. The array is made available in one preparation.

"Depending upon your interest, you can look at mitotic waves and different stages of cell cycle; you can choose the early embryos, when they are dividing; or if you want to look at more specialised kind of cells, then you can see them in late embryogenesis," says Dr. Mishra.

New avenues

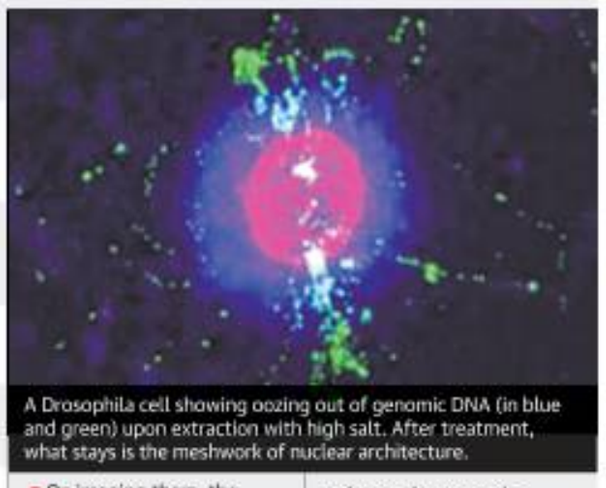
"So far, much of the work in this area was by tracking single molecules such as DNA-binding regulatory proteins, typically, studying one at a time. This new method will open new avenues for studying complex regulatory processes," says Prof. Shashidhara.

This method opens the whole field of *Drosophila* genetics to study nuclear organisation or nuclear architecture using genetic and cell biology approaches, which was limited earlier only to biochemical approaches.

Packaging of the genome

Different cell types have different functions, and in each the genome is packaged differently

- The usual way to study the nuclear matrix is to take the nucleus out and remove the DNA biochemically
- The nuclear matrix that is left is analogous to a building from which all movables have been sucked out
- The new method treats the nuclei within the embryo itself, known as *in situ* nuclear matrix preparation
- The researchers collect embryos which are between zero and 16 hours old
- Next is the *in situ* nuclear matrix preparation using this entire collection of embryos
- Some are in very early developmental stages and made up of nuclei only, or just making a mono layer of nuclei across the embryos or have gone through differentiation
- On imaging them, the entire array is made available in one single preparation
- This allows the study of the mitotic waves, stages of cell cycle, early dividing embryos or late embryogenesis
- This opens the field of *Drosophila* genetics to study nuclear architecture using genetic and cell biology approaches



A Drosophila cell showing oozing out of genomic DNA (in blue and green) upon extraction with high salt. After treatment, what stays is the meshwork of nuclear architecture.

Decoding mosquitoes' sense of smell

Mosquitoes are breaking all favourite rules of how animals smell things

JACOB KOSHY

Of the nearly 3,000 species of mosquito, a handful are choosy and will only target people for their blood. Some of these, for instance, *Aedes Aegypti*, *Anopheles* and *Culex* are well known as vectors for diseases such as dengue, malaria and West Nile fever. How these species are specifically able to detect humans – and often from as many as 50 metres away – has intrigued scientists.

Principle of obfuscating

A science question apart, understanding these behavioural patterns of the insect influences methods to trap and eliminate them. Mosquito repellents work on the principle of obfuscating the insect's sense of smell. The most common chemical in repellents, diethyltoluamide (DEET) for instance, confuses the mosquito's antennae that's sensitive to sweat and carbon dioxide from the human body.

However, this and several other ingredients such as picaridin, IR3535 and eucalyptus oil are not foolproof. The reason for this, a study this month in the journal *Cell* reports, is that mosquitoes have evolved resilient back-ups in their olfactory system that make sure they can always smell our scents.

"Mosquitoes are breaking all of our favourite rules of how animals smell things," Margo Herre, a scientist at Rockefeller University and one of the lead authors of the paper, said in a statement.

Olfactory neurons, that are designed to transmit sensations of smell to receptors in the brain, are only responsible for detecting one type of odour in animals. Thus, if a single odorant receptor is damaged in a person, all of the neurons that express that receptor will lose the ability to sense that smell. However, the researcher-team found that mosquito's olfaction didn't work like that.

"You need to work harder to break mosquitoes because getting rid of a single receptor has no effect," said co-author Leslie Vosshall of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Maryland, in a statement. "Any future attempts to control mosquitoes by repellents or anything else has to take into account how unbreakable their attraction is to us."

Progressed: Mosquitoes have evolved resilient back-ups in their olfactory system to always smell human scents. •GETTY IMAGES

Detection by neurons

1-octen-3-ol, is a chemical secreted in human sweat that can be detected only by specific set of neurons in people and mosquitoes. In these insects, however, these neurons are also stimulated by amines, another type of chemical mosquitoes use to look for humans. This is unusual since according to all existing rules of how animals smell, neurons encode odour with narrow specificity, suggesting that 1-octen-3-ol neurons should not detect amines.

Thus, the neurons for detecting humans through 1-octen-3-ol and amine receptors were not separate populations and could allow all human-related odours to activate the part of the mosquito brain that senses the presence of humans even if some of the receptors were lost, acting as a fail-safe.

Carolyn McBride, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton University, works at deciphering how animal brains interpret complex aromas. Human odour consisted of more than 100 different compounds and those same compounds, in slightly different ratios, are present in most mammals.

Testing by guinea pigs

To test the combinations mosquitoes prefer, McBride's lab used guinea pigs, small mammals with a different blend of many of the same 100 odour compounds of humans.

Researchers collected their odour by blowing air over their bodies, and they then presented mosquitoes with a choice between the smell of guinea pig and from a human arm. Human-specialised "domestic" A. aegypti mosquitoes will go toward the arm 90-95% of the time, said McBride.

A related study in her lab on human volunteers found that some people are more attractive to the insects than others though each human was more similar to each other than to the guinea pigs.

Recognising blends

"There's nothing really unique about any animal odour," said McBride in a statement "There's no one compound that characterises a guinea pig species. To recognise a species, you have to recognise blends."

The McBride lab aims to collect hair, fur, feather and wool samples from 50 animal species, extract odour and analyse them by breaking down the chemical composition of each odour and the difference in proportions of their constituent odours. These values could be fed into a computational model to understand how exactly mosquitoes may have evolved to distinguish humans from non-human animals.

Monkeypox cases rising in U.S.: experts

REUTERS

Monkeypox cases in some U.S. cities appear to be declining, but experts are cautiously optimistic the outbreak may have peaked in places hit hardest by the virus in the country.

The WHO, earlier on Thursday, said monkeypox cases reported globally declined by 21% last week, after a month-long trend of rising infections, but noted that U.S. cases continued to rise.

Some U.S. experts believe that cases are starting to decline based largely on immunity from prior infection and behavior changes as awareness of the disease has grown. That does not mean the disease will be contained, they cautioned. Since late May, the U.S. has recorded nearly 17,000 monkeypox cases. The outbreak, which so far has reached 80 countries outside of Africa, where the virus is endemic, is largely being transmitted among men who have sex with men.

Improving access to antibiotics through innovation

Antimicrobial resistance is a growing health crisis, and tackling it needs a multi-pronged approach

Y.K. GUPTA
SUBASREE SRINIVASAN

In his Nobel lecture, Sir Alexander Fleming, who was awarded the Prize for the discovery of penicillin, had a profound warning. "The time may come when penicillin can be bought by anyone in the shops," he said. "Then, there is the danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug make them resistant." Within a century of his prophecy, the time has come.

Our reckless use of antibiotics, including penicillin, has given rise to bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites that have become resistant to commonly used antimicrobials. What is more concerning is that these microbes are evolving faster than we can invent drugs to tackle them. Our stash of antimicrobials is drying up while more drug resistant 'superbugs' are evolving and taking over the world.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing health crisis, and tackling it needs a multi-pronged approach. We need newer, more effective antimicrobial drugs, improved access to life-saving antimicrobials across the globe; better diagnostics to identify drug-resistant infections and treat them with drugs that work, and robust surveillance systems to monitor the spread of drug resistant infections.

While discovering new antimicrobial drugs through pharmaceutical research and development is expensive, time-consuming, and often out of reach for many low- and middle-income countries, India can rely on collaborations and innovations to build game-changing strategies in tackling the AMR crisis and catch up with the evolving superbugs.

Scale of AMR crisis

In 2019 alone, drug-resistant superbugs killed about 1.27 million people globally – a toll more than HIV/AIDS or malaria – and according to the United Nations' (UN) estimates, that number could reach 10 million by 2050.

In India, the largest consumer of antimicrobials globally, AMR is gaining ground, and the use of last-resort antibiotics like cephalosporins is soaring. The country is projected to have 1.6 million multi-drug resistant infectious cases in 2040, which is significantly higher than any country. The warnings are stark, but our current approaches to reign in the spread of superbugs seem inadequate.

On a rise: India is projected to have 1.6 million multi-drug resistant infectious cases in 2040. •GETTY IMAGES

Diagnostic innovations

One way to prevent the reckless overuse of antimicrobials is to diagnose what's causing an infection early, which helps determine the right course of drugs. In India, many doctors prescribe antibiotics to treat infections that are likely caused by viruses. Rapid diagnostics, which can help identify the exact microbe and the drug to which they are susceptible to, can avoid antibiotic misuse at the point of care.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly rapid diagnostic tests could be developed and made available to people. Similarly, diagnosing AMR needs research on identifying the appropriate biomarkers to detect multi-drug resistant pathogens and developing accurate and affordable detection tools. Agencies like ICMR, BIRAC could fund such development.

Antibiotic discovery

While the consumption of antibiotics like cephalosporins, quinolones, and macrolides has sharply increased in low-and middle-income countries, the pipeline of new antibiotics is dry. Lack of funding in pharmaceutical research, clinical trial and supply chain challenges, and regulatory hurdles have slowed down new antibiotics development.

Developing new antibiotics is expensive and it takes a few years for new drugs to become available in low- and middle-income countries. India needs to jumpstart in-house development of new antibiotics by leveraging public-private partnerships between pharma companies and government research labs, as it did with Covaxin.

Government agencies like ICMR and CSIR, along with DBT, DST could work with international partners like Global Antibiotic Research Development Partnership (GARDP), Wellcome Trust and others to pursue antibacterial research, develop world-class clinical trial infrastructure to accelerate drug development.

In India, where 80% urban healthcare providers are private, resource-starved hospitals struggle to procure pricey antibiotics. Innovative pricing models, bulk procurement of such antibiotics and guaranteed purchase commitments from hospitals could not only reduce cost but also imbibe confidence in pharma companies that have invested in antibiotics research. The rollout of universal health coverage in India could improve access to antibiotics for more than 100 million families by reducing out-of-pocket spending for individuals while also easing procurement for the government with bulk orders.

AMR is an emerging pandemic, and India is the AMR capital of the world – a distinction that calls for swift action from policymakers and the scientific community. With India's demonstrated prowess in pharmaceutical knowledge, experience and infrastructure, as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic with vaccine development and roll-out, the country has the opportunity to tackle AMR and show the way for other low- and middle-income countries.

In this direction, fostering innovation and international partnerships are key. With millions of lives at stake with the soon-to-become AMR pandemic, the country must act now.

(Y.K. Gupta is Principal Advisor India Strategy Development, Global Antibiotics Research and Development Partnership (GARDP). Subasree Srinivasan is Medical Director, Global Antibiotics Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), Geneva.)

Question Corner

Martian rocks

How does studying Martian rocks help our understanding of early Earth?

The accepted view of Mars is red rocks and craters as far as the eye can see. That's much what scientists expected when the rover Perseverance landed in the Jezero Crater, a spot chosen partly for the crater's history as a lake and as part of a rich river system.

But what the rover found once on the ground was startling. Rather than the expected sedimentary rocks – washed in by rivers and accumulated on the lake bottom – many of the rocks are volcanic in nature. Specifically, they are composed of large grains of olivine, which are green in colour (*Science*).

The rocks and lava the rover is examining on Mars are nearly 4 billion years old. Rocks that old exist on Earth but are incredibly weathered and beaten, thanks to Earth's active tectonic plates as well as the weathering effects of billions of years of wind, water and life. On Mars, these rocks are pristine and much easier to analyse and study.

Understanding the rocks on Mars, their evolution and history, and what they reveal about the history of planetary conditions on Mars helps researchers understand how life may have arisen on Mars and how that compares with early life and conditions on ancient Earth.

Scientists can use conditions on early Mars to help extrapolate the environment and conditions on Earth at the same time when life was beginning to arise.

Understanding how, and under what conditions life began will help scientists know where to look for it on other planets and moons.

The search for life is one of Perseverance's main goals and one of the reasons it landed in Jezero Crater in the first place.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Media coup? Worldwide, large corporations have shown interest in acquiring news outlets. •REUTERS

Adani's NDTV plan

What's next on the Gujarat conglomerate's proposal to acquire the television news outlet?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

The story so far: A battle to control the management of New Delhi Television Ltd. (NDTV), which operates one of the leading television news outlets in the country, is brewing between the Adani Group and the founders of NDTV. On Tuesday, the group announced that it would indirectly take over control of 29.18% of NDTV in lieu of unpaid debt. The Gujarat-based conglomerate also said it planned to make an open offer worth ₹493 crore to NDTV's public shareholders to acquire an additional 26% of the media outlet to comply with the rules laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). If the open offer made by the Adani Group entity is successful, NDTV would come under the control of billionaire Gautam Adani's expanding business empire.

What is it all about?

■ NDTV's promoters and their holding entity Radhika Roy Prannoy Roy Holding (RRPR) had taken an interest-free loan of a little more than ₹400 crore from Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt. Ltd. (VCPL), a firm indirectly controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, in separate tranches, in 2009 and 2010. According to the loan agreement, the Roys transferred a portion of their shares to RRPR such that RRPR in effect owned 29.18% of NDTV. Warrants were also issued to VCPL allowing the entity to acquire 99.9% of equity in RRPR in case the loan was unpaid. Before the loan, the Roys owned a majority stake of about 55% in NDTV. Right now, Radhika Roy and Prannoy Roy together hold about 32.26% of the company in their individual capacities. On Tuesday, AMG Media Networks, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adani Group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. bought VCPL from its current owners for ₹113.74 crore and immediately exercised the warrants to acquire a 29.18% stake in NDTV and announced an open offer to buy an additional 26% stake.

The Roys and the Adani Group may get involved in either a protracted legal battle or an aggressive bidding war to gain majority control over NDTV

What are the possible legal implications of the proposed takeover?

■ On first look, the partial takeover seems to be legally valid as the terms of the loan agreement suggest that VCPL is well within its rights to exercise the warrants to convert the debt it issued into equity. However, Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy have contended that they would not be able to transfer RRPR's stake in NDTV to VCPL as they are barred by a SEBI order from dealing in the securities market for two years till November. They have also contended that they were not consulted by the lender before the exercise of the warrant. Creditors, in most instances, do not necessarily need to seek permission from borrowers before they exercise any warrant to take control of the indebted entity. While the Securities Appellate Tribunal's order dated July 20, 2022, cites the loan agreement to note: "VCPL and its affiliates cannot purchase shares of NDTV which will increase their holding to more than 26% in NDTV without the consent of the promoters", whether this clause also covers the conversion is not clear. Only a perusal of the fine print of the loan agreement, which is not in the public domain, can shed light on whether the creditor was required to consult with the Roys before exercising the warrants.

How is the Adani Group going about the takeover?

■ The Adani Group acquired VCPL, the original lender to NDTV's promoters, and then used its ownership of VCPL to exercise the call option on the warrants to gain control of a 29.18% stake in NDTV. The potential 'hostile' takeover of NDTV by the Adani Group has got many worried about its implications for media independence. They contend that corporate ownership of news media organisations could lead to increased bias and censorship. Even though the news industry has been struggling to grow and stay profitable, large corporations have at the global level shown interest in acquiring news outlets. Jeff Bezos, a billionaire and the chairman of Amazon, bought *The Washington Post* in 2013. Earlier this year, Adani Enterprises bought a 49% stake in Quintillion Business Media.

What lies ahead?

■ The Roys and the Adani Group may get involved in either a protracted legal battle or an aggressive bidding war to gain majority control over NDTV. The open offer by Adani seeks to purchase 26% of NDTV from public shareholders at ₹294 per share. The price offered to public shareholders is much lower than the market price of NDTV's shares, which closed at about ₹423 rupees on Friday. NDTV's shares have risen rapidly recently probably in the expectation that a higher price could soon be offered to public shareholders. The Adani Group, with its financial power, however, may hold the upper hand in any bidding war to acquire shares from public shareholders.

How did the Bilkis Bano convicts walk free?

Who needs to be consulted before taking a decision on remission? Were the norms followed?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: There has been widespread outrage over the premature release of 11 convicts in a case relating to the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of at least seven persons, including a three-year-old child, as part of the riots in Gujarat in 2002. The decision by the Gujarat government to grant remission of the remainder of their life imprisonment has come under criticism from lawyers, activists and political parties. It is now under challenge in the Supreme Court.

Justice denied: Protests against the remission to convicts in the Bilkis Bano case in New Delhi. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

What happened to the woman and her family?

■ Bilkis Bano is a gang-rape survivor of the 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat. On March 3 that year, Bilkis, who was pregnant, was part of a group moving from one village to another for safety. Rioters brutally attacked them near a village called Pannivel, raped the women and killed many of them, including her three-year-old daughter. The incident left 14 people dead, according to the police, but only seven bodies were found. Neither the girl's body nor that of a two-day-old infant born to her cousin was found. The Supreme Court transferred the investigation to the CBI and the case to Mumbai to facilitate a free and fair trial. Eleven men were convicted by the trial court and sentenced to life. The Bombay High Court confirmed their life terms in 2017.

How did the 11 men walk out of prison?

■ Life imprisonment normally means convicts remain in jail for the whole of their life. However, they can be released by the State and Central governments at some point, but not before they complete 14 years, by remitting the remaining prison term. Ramesh Rupabhai, one of the convicts, approached the Bombay High Court in 2013 seeking that his release be considered. However, the court ruled that even though the trial took place in Mumbai, the appropriate government to consider remission was Gujarat. Radheshyam Shah, another accused, approached the Gujarat High Court seeking remission. However, the court ruled that as the trial took place in Maharashtra, the appropriate government would be Maharashtra. On his appeal to the Supreme Court, a two-judge Bench ruled on May 22 this year that Gujarat is the appropriate government to consider remission. Significantly, it also accepted the petitioner's claim that the remission should be under the 1992 policy that prevailed in Gujarat on the date of his conviction in 2008. Based on the Supreme Court's direction to consider their plea for remission, the Gujarat government ordered the release of all the 11 convicts, and they walked free on August 15 this year.

What are the rules for remission?

■ Judicial decisions advocate both subjective and objective norms for remission. Courts have ruled that remission should be informed, fair and reasonable, and not arbitrary; that it should not undermine the nature of the crime. In *Laxman Naskar vs Union of India* (2000), the Supreme Court laid down five considerations: whether the offence is an individual act of crime that does not affect society; whether there is a chance of the crime being repeated in future; whether the convict has lost the potentiality to commit crime; whether any purpose is being served in keeping the convict in prison; and socio-economic conditions of the convict's family.

Was the remission given in this case legal?

■ The outcry over the remission granted in this case is largely due to the brutal and horrific nature of the crime. However, lawyers and activists have highlighted possible legal infirmities. For one, the remission has been granted by the Gujarat government without consulting the Centre. Under Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), in a case investigated by the CBI, such consultation is mandatory prior to remission. The Supreme Court has also ruled that 'consultation' means 'concurrence' in this regard. Further, reports indicate that the committee that recommended remission contained some Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) functionaries, including two MLAs. A remission panel usually consists of government officials, officers in charge of parole, rehabilitation and probation of offenders and prison officials. The opinion of the judge who conducted the trial or in charge of the district should be taken too.

In this case, the district judge is understood to have opposed the grant of remission. While the judge's opinion may not be binding, courts have cautioned against brushing aside the opinion without valid reasons. It may also be argued that the presence of political functionaries on the committee may have influenced the decision. The question whether Gujarat is indeed the appropriate government may also be raised again, even though the order by which the Supreme Court wanted their remission plea to be considered has already given its finding. Section 432(7) of the CrPC says the appropriate government will be "the State within which the offender is sentenced or the said order is passed". Commentators have pointed out that the current remission policy bars those found guilty of heinous crimes from being given remission. Their release under a 1992 policy (because it was the one prevailing during their conviction) may also be subjected to legal scrutiny.

Is there clarity on Pegasus malware report?

What has the technical committee told the Supreme Court? What is the stand of the Union government?

P. J. GEORGE

The story so far: The Supreme Court on August 25 said that the panel that it had constituted to look into the Pegasus issue had found no conclusive evidence of the Israeli-origin spyware on the 29 phones it examined. The Court, which said it was studying the detailed reported from the panel, also noted that the Central government had continued its stance of not cooperating with the probe panel. Making oral comments, the outgoing Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana said, "Whatever stand you had taken here [Court], you took with them [court-appointed Pegasus technical committee]."

Why was the panel constituted?

■ The Supreme Court had constituted the panel on October 27 last year after several pleas came before it for a probe into allegations that Central agencies had used Pegasus to spy on politicians, journalists and others. The Centre had, at that time, refused to submit a detailed affidavit on the allegations, as sought by the court. The panel consists of a three-member technical committee supervised by retired Justice R.V. Raveendran. The members are Naveen Kumar Chaudhary of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Prabaharan P. of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala, and Ashwin Anil Gumaste of IIT-Bombay. The panel informed the court in an interim report in May this year that it had come up with its own protocols and software to test phones for Pegasus infection.

What do we know of the panel's report?

■ Justice Ramana, who was heading the three-judge Bench on the case, stated during the latest hearing that the Bench had read parts of the sealed report and would pursue a detailed reading soon. The panel had been working on two key aspects: first, the technical details of the probe into the allegations of Pegasus use; and second, the enhancement of the current laws surrounding digital surveillance, cyber security, and privacy rights. On the first aspect, as per the CJI's reading of the report, five of the 29 phones that were submitted for examination had shown signs of malware infection, but not necessarily Pegasus. The report itself has three parts: the technical details of the phone analysis, the report of the technical committee, and the report of the supervising judge. *The Hindu* has reported that Justice (retd) Raveendran has called for a special investigation agency for cyber attacks.

Snoopgate: The Court says the Centre has refused to cooperate with the probe. •MURALI KUMAR. K

What is the Centre's stance?

■ The Centre had earlier refused the Supreme Court's order to submit a detailed affidavit regarding the use of Pegasus, arguing that such a public affidavit would compromise national security. The Centre had also wanted the panel probing the issue to be under it, which the apex court denied citing the possibility of bias. On August 25, the CJI noted that the panel had also mentioned in its report that there was no cooperation from the Centre on the probe.

How was Pegasus used in India?

■ Reports that appeared in July 2021 from the Pegasus Project, which includes *The Wire* in India, *The Guardian* in the U.K., and *The Washington Post* in the U.S., said that in India, at least 40 journalists, Cabinet Ministers, and holders of constitutional positions were possibly subjected to surveillance using Pegasus. The reports were based on a database of about 50,000 phone numbers accessed by the Paris-based non-profit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International. These numbers were reportedly of interest to clients of the NSO Group (developer of the Pegasus software). According to *The Guardian*, Amnesty International's Security Lab tested 67 of the phones linked to the Indian numbers in the database and found that "23 were successfully infected and 14 showed signs of attempted penetration". Since Pegasus is graded as a cyberweapon and can only be sold to authorised government entities as per Israeli law, most reports have suggested that the governments in these countries are the clients. On January 28, *The New York Times* published an article which claimed that Pegasus was part of a $2-billion "package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear" transaction between India and Israel after Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel. The article claimed that it was after this deal that India changed its historically pro-Palestine stance and voted in Israel's favour in 2019 at the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council to deny observer status to a Palestinian human rights organisation.

What are the claims of Twitter's whistleblower?

Has the social media platform allowed too many people in the system to access sensitive data?

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

The story so far: On August 23, *CNN* and *The Washington Post* newspaper reported that Peiter 'Mudge' Zatko, a former head of security at Twitter, had filed a whistleblower complaint with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which among other things alleges that the Indian government forced the social media network to hire its agent, who then had access to sensitive user data.

What is the report about?

■ This news report is about a disclosure regarding Twitter's security problems and vulnerabilities that Mr. Zatko sent last month to U.S. government agencies and congressional committees. The disclosure document, put out by the *Post*, identifies him as a "security lead" and "a member of the senior executive team," someone who "uncovered extreme, egregious deficiencies by Twitter in every area of his mandate including... user privacy, digital and physical security, and platform integrity/content moderation."

Mr. Zatko, whose services were terminated by Twitter in January this year, has accused his former employer of making false statements to users and the Federal Trade Commission regarding security, privacy and integrity. He has also accused it of deceiving the board of directors and investors.

Significantly, the whistleblower has said in the disclosure that Elon Musk's suspicions about the accuracy of Twitter's claims that less than 5% of its accounts are spam – which eventually led the Tesla founder to pull back from a deal to buy the social media network – "are on target." That's because, "Agrawal [Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal] knows very well that Twitter executives are not incentivised to accurately 'detect' or report total spam bots on the platform."

On a broader level, in the disclosure, Mr. Zatko has written about Twitter's lack of real progress on the issues of security and privacy over the years. For instance, he has alleged that it has allowed too many people in the system to access sensitive data. And that it has also been plagued by server vulnerabilities and fundamental architectural issues. He has also written of being aware of "multiple episodes suggesting that Twitter had been penetrated by foreign intelligence agencies and/or was complicit in threats to democratic governance." It is in this context that he refers to the Indian case. The disclosure comes amid a long-standing battle, now in the courts, between the government and Twitter over the former's power to get the latter to block handles from time to time.

What is the reference to the Indian government?

■ This is what Mr. Zatko's disclosure said: "The Indian government forced Twitter to hire specific individual(s) who were government agents, who (because of Twitter's basic architectural flaws) would have access to vast amounts of Twitter sensitive data." This, according to Mr. Zatko, is a violation of Twitter's commitments to its users.

What have been the reactions to this?

■ Twitter has dismissed the allegations. Its response, which was published in *The Hindu*, has made it a point to mention that Mr. Zatko was fired for "ineffective leadership and poor performance." Also, it has said: "What we've seen so far is a false narrative about Twitter and our privacy and data security practices that is riddled with inconsistencies and inaccuracies and lacks important context."

Twitter hasn't made a specific comment on the Indian angle in the disclosure. The Indian government has also been silent on this.

According to a separate report in *The Hindu*, Twitter "stonewalled" questions by members of the Standing Committee on Information Technology. The social media network has been given a week's time to submit replies.

It isn't clear whether the "agent" mentioned in the disclosure is actually a reference to the grievance officer that significant social media networks were required to recruit under the new IT rules introduced last year. A *CNN* report said, "A person familiar with the matter, and with Zatko's tenure at Twitter, told *CNN* the Indian agents Zatko describes are government-mandated roles the country requires of tech platforms under its local laws." There has been no official statement, either from Twitter or from the government, regarding this.

The Standing Committee on Information Technology has, in fact, asked Twitter about the number of people it employs in India as well as of those employees who had earlier worked with the government.

NDTV

The outlier in a noisy television news space

The channel that has played a key role in modernising India's TV news reporting and has taken critical positions on the government could be controlled by the Adani Group soon

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

Merely hours after a Fitch Group unit, CreditSights, came up with a report that called the Adani Group "deeply overleveraged" and that the group's "overly ambitious debt-funded growth plans could... spiral into a massive debt trap", the Adani Group, in an unrelated press release, said it had made a bid to take over NDTV by first indirectly acquiring a 29.18% stake and then by making an open offer for another 26% ownership stake in the media entity.

NDTV is one of India's most well-known media brands, with its flagship NDTV 24/7 being a pioneer of sorts in the English television news space, its website NDTV.com being among the most read English news websites and some of its current and erstwhile anchors being well recognised public figures. In a survey published in the recent Reuters Institute Digital News Report for 2022 – whose respondents were mainly English-speaking online news users in India – NDTV online polled the highest weekly usage, and while 24-hour TV news channels were perceived by survey respondents as being less-well-trusted compared with print counterparts, NDTV ranked the highest among Indian TV outlets.

It's ironic that CreditSights' warning for the Adani Group that a debt trap could leave some of its companies in distress was exactly how a similar situation played out for the media entity after a series of financial transactions made by the promoters of NDTV led the company into the financial doldrums in the late 2000s and early 2010s.

In Focus

- NDTV's best known offering in the late 1980s on Doordarshan was 'The World This Week', a news programme that brought reporting and analysis of world events
- Soon, NDTV went on to produce special shows related to election coverage and analysis, budget specials and then broadcast a daily news bulletin on DD Metro
- NDTV went on to launch a 24-hour news channel in partnership with Star India in 1998 before branching out on its own as an independent broadcaster in 2003

Cluttered space

Television news in India today is a cluttered space with several English news channels – many of whose editors cut their teeth at NDTV – and the model of news business is also much changed from what it was when NDTV pioneered the modernisation of TV news reporting in India. NDTV was launched in 1984 by Radhika and Prannoy Roy first as a production house for news broadcasts that were predominantly made for the monopoly TV network and state-owned Doordarshan before becoming a commercial news network in 1988. Radhika Roy had a career in journalism with stints in the *Indian Express* and *India Today* before co-founding NDTV, while Prannoy Roy worked as macroeconomist at Delhi School of Economics with a distinct interest in psephology after completing his doctoral degree at the same institute besides being a certified chartered accountant.

NDTV's best known offering in the late 1980s on Doordarshan was the slickly produced 'The World This Week', a news programme that brought reporting and analysis of world events. Soon, NDTV went on to produce special shows related to election coverage and analysis, budget specials and then broadcast a daily news bulletin on DD Metro. These shows were appreciated for bringing a reporter-driven focus and production values of an international standard – with live (or near-live) dispatches from reporters, graphics and the use of file images and videos. This was a strong contrast to the more staid and desk-read out news bulletins brought out by Doordarshan and soon NDTV's model of news gathering and presentation became popular, transforming television news.

NDTV's expansion between 2003 and 2008, with the launch of Hindi and business channels, came at a time when it no longer held a dominant position in the news space

NDTV went on to launch a 24-hour news channel in partnership with Star India in 1998 before branching out on its own as an independent broadcaster in 2003. It followed a strategy of recruiting talent with familial ties to the establishment–bureaucracy, polity military, etc. Besides being reporter-driven in its news gathering and presentation, the channel also promoted its anchors who gained sufficient mileage and attention, becoming the faces of the news network. Some of these anchors – Rajdeep Sardesai and Arnab Goswami – branched out to new news networks as editors and 'star' anchors quickly, others such as Barkha Dutt remained for a few years before moving out while some such as Sreenivasan Jain, Sonia Singh and Vishnu Som continue to ply their work at the channel.

The larger-than-life promotion of anchors as arbiters of news had its own set of consequences: anchors at NDTV, apart from other news organisations, were accused not only of closeness to the establishment but using it to undercut reporting the inner workings of the government-corporate nexus as the later release of the Radia Tapes and its aftermath revealed.

NDTV's expansion between 2003 and 2008 – with the launch of news channels NDTV India (Hindi news), NDTV Profit (business news) – also came at a time when it no longer held a dominant position in the English and Hindi news space with more channels in the fray and NDTV's foray into lifestyle and entertainment channels, NDTV Good Times and NDTV Imagine, were attempts to create new brands to fund the news operation. The expansion was helped with investments from banks such as Morgan Stanley. But the financial costs of news operations had also burgeoned significantly for the company that was listed in the stock exchanges in the early 2000s.

The promoters' decisions to buy back shares came at an inopportune time as the stock market crashed during the global financial crisis in 2008, with NDTV's stock price also falling. This led to the promoter/founders resorting to a series of transactions that began with their availing a loan of ₹501 crore from Indiabulls in July 2008, taking a loan of ₹375 crore from ICICI Bank to repay Indiabulls in November 2008 and a total of ₹403.85 crore in two tranches (in August 2009 and March 2010) from Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt. Ltd. (VCPL), an entity indirectly controlled by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, to repay ICICI. The VCPL loan agreement led to the promoters transferring a portion of their shares to a holding entity Radhika Roy Prannoy Roy Holding (RRPR) in such a way that RRPR held 29.18% of NDTV and allowed VCPL to acquire 99.9% of the RRPR equity, through the conversion of warrants, in case the loan was unpaid. This decision enabled the "hostile bid" by the Adani Group to seek control over NDTV almost a decade and a half later.

Revenue model

NDTV's expansion into new forays had begun to hurt its financials and its revenue model – dependent heavily on advertisements – in a crowded TV news market had also begun to provide diminishing yields. A prolonged period of financial decline was reflected in the company's stock prices and market capitalisation which fell significantly by the mid-2010s.

With a TRP TV ratings model, later shown to be flawed, governing advertisement placements, NDTV no longer remained the favoured destination for commercials. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party's coming to power in 2014 also changed the nature of public discourse favoured by the television channels, besides its focus on news operations as well.

Today, the primetime offerings of the English news channels are limited to studio "discussions" and polarised "debates". General news reporting barely features in-depth investigation or coverage of issues related to livelihoods or broader, deeper trends of political economy, international affairs or public policy in English news channels as was the case in the 1990s. More noticeably, predominant channels in television news media in India underwent an accelerated "Foxification" – the imitation of the controversial U.S. news channel Fox News.

NDTV did seek to remain as one among a rapidly dwindling number of exceptions to this trend. Financially, years of cost-cutting through a reduction in the size of the workforce and the scale of operations besides a flourishing digital operation allowed it to turn around. In FY 2020-21, NDTV made a revenue of ₹357.63 crore and a profit of ₹74.86 crore, but these numbers are also a reflection of the size of operations of the group, whose heydays were more than a decade ago.

The Adani Group has now bought VCPL from its current owners, Mahendra Nahata (a Reliance group associate) of the HFCL group, reportedly for ₹113.74 crore (much lower than the ₹403.85 crore that was loaned from VCPL to NDTV) and immediately exercised the warrants to acquire the stake in NDTV and issued an open offer to acquire a majority stake.

The Adani Group's rise as a leading and diverse business entity has coincided with the ascension of former Gujarat Chief Minister and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi and its promoter's proximity with the current Union government is well known. It has now embarked to seek majority control of what remains one of the few independent TV and digital media groups in the country that is willing to take critical positions on the government of the day, leading to NDTV staring at an uncertain future.

GHULAM NABI AZAD

A loyalist-turned-rebel

The former J&K CM had been a close associate of the Gandhis until recently

SANDEEP PHUKAN

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

A Union Minister at the age of 33, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, a two-term Lok Sabha and five-term Rajya Sabha member, a former Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) – Ghulam Nabi Azad's decades-long political career has been distinctively eventful.

A leader with no real mass following, many of Mr. Azad's friends-turned-detractors in the Congress now argue that his rise was as much a result of his proximity to the Gandhi family as it was about his ability to outsmart his rivals in the party. "Ghulam Nabi Azad Saab and I are contemporaries and came into politics around the same time. While I managed to win the Assembly elections in 1977, he lost his deposit from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)," Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh said.

"He and I, even today, share a good relationship but I'm disappointed. When he couldn't win from Kashmir, he was fielded from Maharashtra and became a Lok Sabha member for two terms. He was given five Rajya Sabha terms – that's 30 years. The party made him Chief Minister and Union Minister. Today, he is talking about being hurt by Rahul Gandhiji's 2013 act of tearing up an ordinance before journalists," Mr. Singh added.

Why did he not resign as a Minister immediately and why did he later accept the LoP position in 2014, asked Mr. Singh.

"Today, he is talking about sycophancy, but during Sanjay Gandhi's day, he was known as one," said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, another contemporary of Mr. Azad.

Political skills

Originally known to be a member of the Sanjay brigade along with leaders like Kamal Nath and Jagdish Tytler, Mr. Azad's remarkable political skills saw him not just survive but thrive in every Congress regime. He first came in contact with Sanjay Gandhi in the 1970s, who then introduced him to his mother. After Indira Gandhi was voted out of power and arrested, he was part of the young brigade who hit the streets against the 1977-formed Janata government.

Following Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, Rajiv Gandhi, who took over the Youth Congress' leadership from Mr. Azad, retained him in his Council of Ministers.

When tragedy struck the Congress in 1991 with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination and a leadership vacuum was created, he is said to have played a key role in propping up P.V. Narasimha Rao as the Congress chief and the Prime Minister. However, Mr. Azad shifted his allegiance to Sitaram Kesri by the time Rao was completing his term in the mid-90s.

He is said to be among the leaders who had ensured that Sonia Gandhi replaced Kesri in March 1999 in a coup-style takeover of the party. In a dramatic turn of events, loyalists of the Gandhi family are said to have locked up Kesri in a room while the CWC passed a resolution to elect Ms. Gandhi as the party chief and sacked the predecessor.

When the United Progressive Alliance came to power in 2004, Mr. Azad was made a Cabinet Minister in the Manmohan Singh government and then later appointed as the J&K Congress president. In 2005 as part of a post-poll power-sharing agreement with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), he was made the Chief Minister and remained in the post until 2008 when his government passed a controversial order to transfer 99 acres of forest land to the Shri Amarnathji shrine board.

The land was meant to be used during the annual Amarnath pilgrimage but the move triggered a violent agitation in J&K, following which the PDP withdrew its support for the Azad-led government.

But Mr. Azad was immediately drafted back into Delhi politics where he continued to be part of the Congress core group and a Minister in the Manmohan Singh government. To Mr. Azad's credit, his interpersonal skills enabled him to be friends with leaders from across the political spectrum. It was due to these skills that he managed to win the Rajya Sabha elections from J&K in 2015 despite the Congress not having the requisite numbers.

However, with Rahul Gandhi's elevation as party vice-president in 2013, the power matrix within the Congress shifted, prompting the veteran leader to turn a rebel and give shape to a ginger group, known as G-23. And now, he's out of the party.

ALEXANDER DUGIN

The guru of Neo-Eurasianism

The Russian political philosopher believes in an expansionary civilisational state

G. SAMPATH

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Late evening on August 20, 29-year-old Darya Dugina was driving back to Moscow after attending an arts festival when a blast ripped through her SUV, killing her instantly. A bomb had been planted on the underside of the vehicle, and detonated remotely. Dugina's death made global headlines as many believed that the intended target was her father Alexander Dugin, an ideologue and political philosopher often described by Western commentators as 'Putin's Rasputin'.

Mr. Dugin, 60, is known foremost for propagating the concepts of 'Novorossiya' or 'New Russia' and 'Russky Mir' or 'Russian world'. Together, these two ideas underpin an ultra-nationalist ideology that envisions Russia as a civilisational state at the heart of a Eurasian power bloc that would stretch from Vladivostok to Western Europe. He outlined his vision in *Foundations of Geopolitics* (1997), which was lapped up by disillusioned Russians struggling to find their bearings in the chaotic post-Communist years.

Mr. Dugin's geopolitics is inspired by the conservative German political scientist Carl Schmitt, who shared a close but ambivalent relationship with the Nazi party (he was interrogated but not charged at the Nuremberg trials). Drawing on Schmitt's *Land and Sea: A World-Historical Meditation* (1942), Mr. Dugin argues that the world's primary geopolitical conflict is between the forces of the Sea and those of the Land – that is, between the island/Atlantic powers represented today by the U.S./U.K. and the continental ones, represented by the Eurasian landmass stretching from coastal France all the way to Japan.

In this schema – Mr. Dugin believes American foreign policy is premised on it – the Sea Forces' ascendancy would necessitate preventing the integration of the Eurasian landmass into a continent-sized geopolitical power.

Civilisational conflict

This entails ensuring that its biggest powers (Germany and Russia) and the entire region of eastern and central Europe that used to be part of Russia's sphere of influence can never be integrated. NATO's raison d'etre, Mr. Dugin believes, is precisely to prevent such integration. For him, this conflict is not merely geopolitical but also civilisational, opening the door to ultranationalism. In his other influential book, *The Fourth Political Theory* (2009), Mr. Dugin draws on the three dominant political theories of the 20th century – liberalism, fascism and communism – to amalgamate a "fourth" political theory that would have the best elements of the three but none of their shortcomings.

His new theory is based on what he calls the "ethnos". Standing in opposition to liberal individualism, democracy and 'progressivism', this ethnos is defined by a shared culture and a set of 'eternal' values rooted in the Russian Orthodox Church. Not surprisingly, Mr. Dugin's political theory turns out to be another version of ethno-nationalism, one that he calls 'Neo-Eurasianism'.

A question that comes up in any discussion of Mr. Dugin is: how influential is he in the Kremlin? Some analysts cite Mr. Putin's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the invasion of Ukraine this year – both of which Mr. Dugin had been advocating for a long time – to suggest Mr. Putin has bought into Mr. Dugin's thinking. They also point to the resurgence of 'Eurasian integration' as a key strategic objective of Mr. Putin's foreign policy.

Indeed, Mr. Dugin has been a vocal advocate of expunging Ukrainian sovereignty. Mr. Putin, in his speech announcing the 'special military operation' seemed to express much the same sentiment. But for other analysts, the convergence between Mr. Dugin's ideology and Mr. Putin's actions suggest not that the latter is following the former's ideas but rather that Mr. Putin finds Mr. Dugin's ideas politically useful to justify whatever he wants to do to further his own agenda.

It is true, nonetheless, that Mr. Dugin is one of the biggest cheerleaders of the Ukraine war. Russian investigators have claimed that Dugina's assassin was a Ukrainian woman who has escaped to Estonia. As for Mr. Dugin, he has no doubt his daughter is a "martyr". Both the radical ethno-nationalist and grieving father turned up at the funeral, and they seemed to speak in one voice as he proclaimed, standing next to her portrait, that Dugina "died for the people, died for Russia."

'ECB needs big rate increase in Sept.'

Eurozone recession now very likely but that alone will not bring down inflation, says ECB's Kazaks

REUTERS
JACKSON HOLE

A euro zone recession is now very likely but that alone will not bring down inflation and the European Central Bank should opt for a big rate increase next month, ECB policymaker Martins Kazaks said on Saturday.

The ECB raised rates by 50 basis points in July to zero and a similar move is being priced in for September 8 but some policymakers have started talking about an even bigger increase as the inflation outlook is deteriorating.

Runaway inflation: At 8.9%, inflation is more than four times the ECB's target and it is likely to go still higher. •REUTERS

'Reasonable choice'

"Frontloading rate hikes is a reasonable policy choice," Mr. Kazaks, Latvia's central bank chief, told Reuters. "We should be open to discussing both 50 and 75 basis points as possible moves.

"From the current perspective, it should at least be 50," he said in an interview on the sidelines of the U.S. Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole Economic Symposium.

The problem is that at 8.9%, inflation is more than four times the ECB's target and it is still likely to go higher before a slow retreat.

Underlying inflation, which filters out volatile food and energy prices, is also uncomfortably high, indicating that some of the inflation is now getting embedded in the economy via second-round effects.

'Neutral level'

With interest rates at zero, the ECB is still supporting the economy and Mr. Kazaks said the bank should reach the neutral level, which neither brakes not stimulates the economy, in the first quarter of next year.

"If we see that we need to go beyond the neutral, I have no doubt we will," he said. "If we don't see significant decreases in core inflation, we may need to go beyond the neutral. But let's not get ahead of ourselves."

He added that the ECB should reduce its balance sheet at some point but, for now, it should predominantly deal with interest rates.

Short, shallow recession

A complication for the bloc is a looming recession, due primarily to soaring energy prices fuelled by Russia's war in Ukraine.

While a recession will weigh on inflation, a short and shallow recession, as now expected by many, will not be enough to get price growth under control without ECB action.

"With this high inflation, avoiding a recession will be difficult, the risk is substantial and a technical recession is very likely. In Latvia, a recession is part of a baseline scenario," Mr. Kazaks added.

Trust in private sector is key to country's growth: Bhargava

'Private industry tops comparison with public sector'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANDHINAGAR

The way forward for India on the road to growth and development is to rely on private sector, Maruti Suzuki India chairman R.C. Bhargava said on Saturday.

He credited the current government at the Centre for trusting the private sector and encouraging industry to be at the forefront of economic and industrial growth and job creation.

"After all these 60-65 years of going through government and public sector, I have no doubt in my mind that the way forward for India is to rely on the private sector," Mr. Bhargava told reporters here.

R.C. Bhargava

He was responding to a query on how he saw the road ahead for the industry, specially the auto industry, in India in the next 10-20 years, in the backdrop of Maruti Suzuki completing 40 years of successful operations.

He, however, said the private sector had its own faults and was not without blemishes.

'Not without blemish'

"I'm not for a moment saying that private sector is perfect. If you balance the negatives and the positives of both private sector and public sector, the balance comes up far more in favour of the private sector than the public sector," Mr. Bhargava asserted.

"I think production in India and the car industry in 2022-23 will be the highest level. I'm not talking about Maruti alone, I'm talking about the car industry," Mr. Bhargava said.

Need to diversify agri towards power, energy sectors: Gadkari

Transport Minister flags energy shortage, oil import costs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

With India being energy deficient, there is a need for the country to diversify agriculture into the energy and power sectors, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday.

"We already have energy shortage," the Minister said.

"We are making an expenditure of ₹15 lakh crore every year for importing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products. So, this is the time we can diversify agriculture towards the energy and power sector," added Mr. Gadkari while addressing the felicitation programme of National Cogeneration

Nitin Gadkari

Awards 2022. "While 65-70% of our population depends on agriculture, our agricultural growth rate is only 12-13%. And the next move should be cogeneration to increase revenue from sugar. The industry should produce less sugar and more byproducts, embracing the vision for futuristic technologies and using the power of leadership to convert knowledge into wealth."

He said India's requirement for sugar was 280 lakh tonnes this year, while the production was more than 360 lakh tonnes.

"However, we need to divert production towards ethanol as ethanol requirement is very high. Last year's capacity was 400 crore litres of ethanol and the government has taken a lot of initiatives to increase ethanol production. Now is the time for industry to plan demand for ethanol, using technologies such as power generators run by bioethanol."

32 firms apply for DLI, PLI in telecom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

As many as 32 companies have submitted applications under the Design-led Incentive Scheme (DLI) and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme of telecom, according to an official release.

The Design-led Incentive scheme has received an "enthusiastic response" from telecom equipment manufacturers, it said.

"A total of 32 companies... have submitted applications. 17 of these 32 companies have applied as Design-led manufacturers and remaining as Production linked manufacturers," the government said in a statement but did not give the names of the applicant companies.

Tata Motors eyes dominance in SUVs, plans to keep driving in new models

Firm unveils Jet edition of mid-to-high range SUVs, 'inspired by business jets'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Motors plans to bring in new products and expand existing model line-ups as it aims to 'retain dominant position' in the SUV segment amid increasing competition from other brands, according to a senior company official.

The auto major, which currently sells models such as Punch, Nexon, Harrier and Safari, also plans to bring in additional trims and variants with feature enhancements in order to cater to evolving customer requirements.

"We plan to further expand the SUV space by adding new nameplates/variants at regular intervals and expanding our consumer base. We plan on retaining the leading SUV brand position in India," said Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles vice-president (Sales, Marketing and Customer Care) Rajan Amba.

With these interventions, the automaker plans to sell more SUVs this fiscal as compared with 2.22 lakh units it dispatched in FY21, he noted.

The overall SUV product contribution to Tata Motors' sales in April-June quarter this fiscal stood at 67%, higher than the industry penetration of 40%, Mr. Amba said.

He said though the demand outlook was strong, in the last two years the supply side has been trying to catch up, due to part shortages for various reasons, he said when asked about the chip supply situation.

"We expect this gap to continue even in the festive period," he added.

The company also unveiled an all-new Jet edition of its mid-to-high range of SUVs namely Nexon, Harrier and Safari, in the price range of ₹12.78 lakh and ₹22.65 lakh, ex-showroom Delhi.

"This unique and luxurious line-up is inspired by 'Business Jets', which will appeal to a set of customers who love opulence and want to soar high in luxury," the company said. Vehicles of this edition are available immediately.

"The Jet edition will further build upon the 'Go-Anywhere' DNA of our true SUVs and add a quotient of 'Go-Anywhere in Luxury'," said Mr. Amba.

(With inputs from Lalatendu Mishra in Mumbai)

'Go Fashion won't lower selling prices'

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Women's bottomwear clothing firm Go Fashion India Ltd. (GFIL) will not lower selling prices even if there is a decline in raw material prices, said CEO Gautam Saraogi.

"Even if the raw material price goes down, we will not bring down our selling price because it will create a very negative impact in front of our end customers," Mr. Saraogi said during an earnings call.

During FY22, GFIL effected two price increases. The first such, in years, was in response to an increase in the sourcing cost of goods sold. "But as of now, the price fluctuations are steady as far as raw material is concerned, from what we have seen in the last 3-4 months," he said.

'Green push yields increased orders for Triveni Turbines'

MD says 75% of final products in thermal renewable sector

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Industrial steam turbine manufacturer Triveni Turbines Ltd.'s order book position is seeing a sharp increase due to the renewable energy push in Europe and on account of incremental demand from the home market, said vice-chairman and MD Nikhil Sawhney.

"All industries, in some manner or the other, have been asked to move to more renewable fuels in advanced countries, such as in Europe, which were initially using coal in the boilers," said Mr. Sawhney. "They moved from coal to gas, and are now moving from gas to pelletised biomass," he added.

"Though we are agnostic to fuel, our applications are

Nikhil Sawhney

becoming much more renewable in terms of end use. As of last year, 75% of our final products were in the thermal renewable segment," he added.

In line with the demand, the company's carry forward order book, as on June 30, 2022, stood at ₹1,070 crore, including a ₹360-crore worth order bagged in the June quarter.

"Ultimately, we are finding much greater acceptance in those markets [renewable sector] and those markets will include segments such as biomass-based independent power production," Mr. Sawhney said.

Stating that the company was focussing on R&D, he said that going forward, it would continue to work in areas such as 'supercritical carbon dioxide'.

"We continue to see robust demand, in the domestic market from the distillery segment, from other renewable-based projects such as in paper and paper recycling, as well as some projects in municipal solid waste," Mr. Sawhney added.

GOVT.OF KARNATAKA
Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PORT DIVISION, BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302
Phone/Fax:-08382-229672 Email: eepdk@rediffmail.com, eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2022-23/541 Date: 25-08-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Only in E-Procurement) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in e-Procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in e-Procurement, and for more information may be obtained in **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

"GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately"

Name of work and Indent Number: PROVIDING EMERGENT COASTAL PROTECTION WALL WORK AT TALGOD IN BHATKAL TALUK OF UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT CH. 147.300 TO 147.600 KM(Indent No: IDD/202223/OW/WORK_INDENT76). Amount put to Tender **Rs. 2,17,69,020.00**, Last date and Time for receipt of queries **05-09-2022 at 16.00 hours**, Last date and Time for Submission of Tender **07-09-2022 at 16.00 hours**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Port Division Karwar

DIPR/ACK/MCA/387/22-23 Dt. 26.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein from **Sri. Erukalareddy Nemalidinne S/o. Sri. Malkodiah**, who claims to be the owner of the **Schedule Property.** Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property or objecting for the proposed Sale may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 152/1200 comprising of Residential Building consisting of Ground and 4 upper floors totally measuring 5500 sq ft built-up area, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, presently bearing Khatha No. 1323/152/1200 in the records maintained by the office of the Gram Panchayath, Maragondanahalli and the Site is measured and bounded as follows:

MEASUREMENT:
East to West on the Northern Side : 39 Feet;
Southern Side : 41 Feet;
North to South : 30 Feet
Totally measuring : 1200 Sq feet

BOUNDARIES:
East by : Road;
West by : Private Property;
North by: Site No.1201;
South by: Site No.1199.

ROOPA SHETTY, B.A. (L)., LL.B., PGDIRPM.,Advocate,
Lex Situs, No.810, Bilvapriya Platina, 2nd Floor,
27th Main Road, 1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102
Phone: 080-22582563, 080-25723339; Email:info@lexsitus.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is desirous of purchasing al that piece and parcel of immovable property more-fully described in the schedule hereunder (Schedule Property) from its present owner Mr. SYED NAZEER S/o. Syed Mehaboob, Aged about 39 year residing at No.319, 6th Cross New BEL Road, Devasandra, Bengaluru-560054. It is reported that the owner has acquired the right, title and interest over the schedule property by virtue of the Deed of Absolute Sale dated 25-02-2015 vide registered as document No. RJN-1-07017-2014-15, stored in CD No. RJND279 of Book-I dated 25-02-2015 in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru

Any person or persons asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest or claim on the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owner of objection to such sale in favour of my client should lodge his/her/their/ its objections or claims with supporting documents with the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS (7 Days) of the issuance of this Public Notice, after which period my client shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing No.22, carved out of Sy. No. 24/1-B, situated at Chikkamaranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and presently situated within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, Bengaluru and assigned the New Municipal No.15 (Old No.22), PID No. 4-98-15, situated at 6th Cross, Chikkamaranahalli, Bengaluru, BBMP, Ward No.-4, Mathikere Bengaluru measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft together with 3 Squares of RCC Roofed House in Ground Floor and 3 Squares of RCC Roofed in First Floor, the said house constructed with cement and bricks, door and windows are fitted by jungle wood, Red Oxide Flooring with electricity, water, sanitary and other facilities thereon and bounded on that: East by: Site No.33, West by: Road, North by: Site No.23, South by: Site No.21.

Sd/-HB Chandrashekar,
Advocate No. No. 04/20, 1st B Main Road, 1st 'N' Block, KN Extension, Near Ganapathi Temple, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560100
Place: Bangalore Dated: 28.08.2022

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI.
www.midnglb@rediffmail.com. PHONE : 08472 -220196

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-3/2022-23/ 2322 Dated : 25-08-2022

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-4) :-

1) Detail of work : THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELEGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER NAGARABHIVRUDHI PRADIKAR KALABURAGI, 2) Amount of Estimate: Rs. 418,85,405.48, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-1, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee As Per e-Portal E.M.D. 6,28,300.00, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **09-09-2022 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 6) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders : **12-09-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 7) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **13-09-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **14-09-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 9) Addl. Information : Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 10) Address of E-Portal.: www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/546/MC&A/2022-23

CoinSwitch cooperating with probe: CEO

ED inquiry about onboarding users, KYC norms and crypto exchanges: Singhal

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's top crypto app CoinSwitch is cooperating with the national financial-crime agency, whose agents searched its offices this week to find out about its business model and user-onboarding processes, its CEO told Reuters on Saturday.

CoinSwitch, valued at $1.9 billion, said it is the largest crypto company in India, with more than 18 million registered users. The firm is backed by Andreessen Horowitz, Tiger Global and Coinbase Ventures.

Ashish Singhal, speaking for the first time publicly about Thursday's search, said his company was engaging with the Indian Enforcement Directorate's unit in the tech hub of Bengaluru on the functioning of its crypto platform.

"Most of their engagement with us has been about knowing what CoinSwitch does," Mr. Singhal said, adding the inquiries included operations of crypto exchanges, how users were onboarded, and details about know-your-customer norms.

A person with direct knowledge of the matter said the case relates to suspected violations of India's foreign exchange laws.

Agents asked about foreign investments, income and outflows to check on compliance, and seized financial documents, the source said.

Mr. Singhal declined to specify the agency's allegations, citing legal sensitivities.

The Enforcement Directorate did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The investigation into CoinSwitch comes amid tightening regulatory scrutiny of the crypto sector in India.

WazirX's assets frozen

In a separate case, the agency this month froze $8 million in assets of WazirX, a top virtual currency exchange, in an investigation of a possible role in helping instant loan app companies launder the proceeds of crime by converting them into cryptocurrencies on its platform.

Shadow banks

The agency said it was conducting money-laundering investigations against several shadow banks and their fintech companies for potential violations of central bank norms and predatory lending practices.

The CoinSwitch search was "not about money laundering," Mr. Singhal said. The agency "has been engaged with us with respect to functioning of our crypto platform and we are fully cooperating with them," he said.

While no official data is available on the size of India's crypto market, CoinSwitch estimates the number of investors at up to 20 million, with total holdings of about $6 billion.

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/JE/JJM/E-Proc/2022-23/1105 Date : 25.08 .2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Indent Nos.: (1) 42491 CALL 2 (2) 41951 CALL 2 (3) 39687 CALL 5 (4) 39802 CALL 4 (5) 43206 (6) 43211 (7) 43263 (8) 43248 (9) 41525 CALL 2 (10) 41496 CALL 2 (11) 41319 CALL 2.

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only.

Few conditions of the tender :

(1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **31.08.2022 & 01/05.09.2022 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of Opening of Single Cover Financial bid : **01/02.09.2022 at 11.30 A M** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **02/07.09.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (4) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **04/09.09.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **Single cover : 3 months (90 days) Double cover : 6 months (180 days)**

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.130-08 zenkar/2022-23

India has a sour memory to erase

But, Pakistan may have the edge despite missing spearhead Shaheen Afridi

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

It has been a little less than a year since Pakistan recorded a historic victory over India, in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium here. It took 13 attempts for Pakistan to finally defeat India in a World Cup, and did so in comprehensive fashion.

The 10-wicket win for Pakistan – on the back of a fiery spell by Shaheen Afridi, and cracking knocks from Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan – will not be easily forgotten by the Indians.

When the two teams meet in the marquee Asia Cup clash at the same venue on Sunday, it will be Pakistan which enters the field with the mental edge.

The absence of the injured Afridi will give the Indian top-order some respite. Openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul, both of whom succumbed to Afridi gems last year, would much prefer facing the likes of Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah and Hasan Ali.

Virat Kohli's poor form has been a big talking point for a couple of seasons now.

INDIA-PAKISTAN H2H IN T20Is

	M	India	Pakistan
Overall	9	7	2
In Asia Cup	1	1	0
In UAE	1	0	1

■ In the only meeting in the T20I format at the Asia Cup, India beat Pakistan by five wickets at Mirpur (2016). Hardik Pandya's impressive spell of 3.3-0-8-3 saw Pakistan getting shot out for 83. Mohammad Amir breathed fire as India was reduced to eight for three. Kohli (49) revived the chase before the team reached home in 15.3 overs

The batter, as the adage goes, could be just one big knock away from regaining his imperious touch. Pakistan will only hope that Kohli finds some other occasion to do so.

In Suryakumar Yadav, India possesses one of the most exciting batting talents around. The Mumbaikar is fearless, and does not hesitate to go for outrageous shots. His breathtaking swivel pull, taking the ball from outside off and sending it over the fine-leg fence, is in line with the team management's new diktat of playing all-out attacking cricket.

If Pakistan is missing a pace spearhead in Afridi, the same holds good for India, which is without Jasprit Bumrah. Harshal Patel, a proven performer, is out with injury as well. This places a heavy burden on Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has added subtle pace variations and yorkers to his repertoire.

Bhuvneshwar and his mates will have to contend with a top-heavy Pakistan, which relies on Babar, Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman to make the bulk of the runs.

Start from scratch

India vice-captain Rahul refused to be drawn into a discussion on a possible 'revenge match', preferring to focus on the need to start from scratch. "Losing any game in a World Cup always hurts. We were outplayed by a really strong Pakistan team, and now we have once again got an opportunity against them," Rahul said.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, and Avesh Khan.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (Capt.), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir, Mohammed Hasnain, and Hasan Ali.

Dew or no dew, we know what we need to do: Rohit

Working his magic: Bhuvneshwar will look to make the ball talk in the match against Pakistan. • TWITTER/BCCI

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma hopes dew doesn't play a big role in Asia Cup opener against Pakistan on Sunday. In floodlit games in the UAE, the dew tends to make the ball harder to grip for the defending team's bowlers, as was evident during last year's T20 World Cup.

"When we went to the ground yesterday (Friday), we spoke to the curator about the dew factor. So far, we've heard there hasn't been any dew. Luckily, we will play tomorrow (Sunday), so we will watch the Sri Lanka-Afghanistan game to get a better idea about the conditions," said Rohit.

"We'll be in touch with the groundsman as well. Dew or no dew, we've played enough cricket in this part of the world to understand what we need to do as a group and individuals," Rohit said.

The Indian skipper remained non-committal on his playing XI.

He weighed in on the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Afridi, missing due to injuries.

"In their absence, the quality will be missing for both teams. I believe the other boys, for both teams, will get a chance to prove their mettle," he said.

I was feeling mentally down: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

The prolonged lean patch did take a toll on Virat Kohli's "mental health" as the former India captain admitted to not having touched the bat during the month-long break prior to Asia Cup.

Faking intensity

Kohli has been out without an international hundred for nearly three years but his poor run of form did affect him as he revealed that at times he was "faking intensity" in trying to show that he is an epitome of mental strength.

"I am not shy to admit that I was feeling mentally down," the former India skipper told *Star Sports* in an episode of "Virat: Heart to Heart".

Following the tour, Kohli took a break, skipping two white-ball series in the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

"For the first time in 10 years, I didn't touch my bat for a month.

"I came to the realisation that I was trying to fake my intensity a bit recently," Kohli said.

Kohli will hope to make it a memorable 100

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

The high-octane India-Pakistan match here on Sunday will mark Virat Kohli's 100th Twenty20 International appearance.

Kohli is set to become the 14th cricketer to reach this milestone. India skipper Rohit Sharma leads the charts, with 132 T20I caps. Kohli will also become the second cricketer to play 100 matches in all formats, after New Zealand's Ross Taylor.

Fans will hope that Kohli makes the occasion all the more memorable by racking up some runs to break out of a slump.

Kohli may not have a T20I century, but his average of 50.12 is by far the highest in this elite group. David Miller (104 T20I caps) is next best with an average of 32.4.

Kohli looked in typically good touch in the nets here, and won hearts by greeting and interacting with players from other teams. The 33-year-old returns to competitive action after a break.

> **It is up to you how you overcome the challenges you face. Virat is still one of the best batters in world cricket**
>
> BABAR AZAM
> Pakistan skipper

100 beckons When **Kohli** takes the field against Pakistan on Sunday, he will become the second Indian man after Rohit to play 100 T20Is

VIRAT'S T20I DOSSIER

	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s
Overall	99	91	25	3308	94*	50.12	137.66	30
Home	39	38	13	1420	94*	56.80	150.10	13
Away	38	35	7	1205	90*	43.03	136.62	10
Neutral	22	18	5	683	78*	52.53	118.78	7
As captain	50	46	13	1570	94*	47.57	140.55	13
Not as captain	49	45	12	1738	90*	52.66	135.14	17
In Asia Cup	5	4	2	153	56*	76.50	110.86	1

RUNS BY POSITION

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6
119 runs (5 inns)	159 (3)	2469 (63)	509 (17)	26 (1)	26 (2)

BY OPPONENT	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s
Australia	19	18	6	718	90*	59.83	146.23	7
England	19	19	4	589	80*	39.26	136.65	4
West Indies	14	13	3	570	94*	57.00	150.79	6
New Zealand	10	10	1	311	70	34.55	138.83	2
South Africa	10	9	2	254	72*	36.28	134.39	2
Sri Lanka	7	6	2	339	82	84.75	140.66	4
Pakistan	7	7	3	311	78*	77.75	118.25	3
Bangladesh	4	4	2	129	57*	64.50	113.15	1
Afghanistan	2	1	0	50	50	50.00	128.20	1
Zimbabwe	2	1	1	26	26*	-	123.80	0
Ireland	2	2	0	9	9	4.50	90.00	0
Scotland	1	1	1	2	2*	-	100.00	0
Namibia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UAE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

KOHLI'S T20I SPECIALS

30 His tally of fifties is the highest

50.12 Second-best batting average in the shortest format, behind Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan (50.36)

299 Collection of fours, placing him fourth behind Paul Stirling (344), Rohit (313) and Guptill (306)

3308 Third in the list of top run-getters after Guptill (3497) and Rohit (3487)

> **I'm looked at as a guy who is mentally strong, and I am. But everyone has a limit and you need to recognise it.** KOHLI

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO | COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

Farooqi breathes fire, Afghanistan stuns Lanka

Left-arm pacer bundles out island nation for 105 before Nabi's men cruise home

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Afghanistan romped to an impressive eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the opening match of the Asia Cup at the Dubai International Stadium here on Saturday.

After being put in to bat, Sri Lanka lost the plot and crumbled to 105. The chase was over in quick time, with Afghanistan making the runs in 10.1 overs. Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed an 18-ball 40 to put the match beyond the reach of the Lankans. Fellow opener Hazratullah Zazai (37 n.o., 28b, 5x4, 1x6) stuck around to finish the job.

Sri Lanka was pushed onto the backfoot in the very first over, when opener Kusal Mendis and Charith Asalanka fell to left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi. Mendis was trapped on the pads when attempting to flick, while Asalanka failed to negotiate a delivery which tailed in a long way.

Danushka Gunathilaka (17) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (38) put on 44 for the fourth wicket. Gunathilaka's reverse sweep to Mujeeb Ur Rehman proved to be his undoing.

Afghanistan gained the big wicket of Rajapaksa through a direct hit from skipper Mohammed Nabi. At 49 for four, it would have been prudent for Wanindu Hasaranga to play the waiting game. The all-rounder took the attacking route instead, and paid the price. Skipper Dasun Shanaka was sent back for a golden duck, and was followed quickly by Maheesh Theekshana (0) and Matheesha Pathirana (5).

Chamika Karunaratne (31, 38b, 3x4, 1x6) showed some fight to ensure that Sri Lanka batted nearly its full quota of overs. Farooqi, who started the Sri Lanka rot, was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets.

Yes! Farooqi appeals successfully for an lbw decision against Mendis. • AFP

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA
Pathum Nissanka c Gurbaz b Naveen 3 *(7b)*, Kusal Mendis lbw b Farooqi 2 *(4b)*, Charith Asalanka lbw b Farooqi 0 *(1b)*, Danushka Gunathilaka c Janat b Mujeeb 17 *(17b, 3x4)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa run out 38 *(29b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Nabi b Mujeeb 2 *(8b)*, Dasun Shanaka c Gurbaz b Nabi 0 *(1b)*, Chamika Karunaratne b Farooqi 31 *(38b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Maheesh Theekshana run out 0 *(0b)*, Matheesha Pathirana c Zadran b Nabi 5 *(12b)*, Dilshan Madushanka (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-1): 6; Total (in 19.4 overs): 105.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Mendis, 0.5 ov), 2-3 (Asalanka, 0.6), 3-5 (Nissanka, 1.6), 4-49 (Gunathilaka, 7.2), 5-60 (Hasaranga, 9.2), 6-64 (Shanaka, 10.1), 7-69 (Rajapaksa, 12.2), 8-69 (Theekshana, 12.3), 9-75 (Pathirana, 14.6)

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING
Farooqi 3.4-1-11-3, Naveen 3-0-23-1, Mujeeb 4-0-24-2, Omarzai 1-0-20-0, Nabi 4-0-14-2, Rashid 4-0-12-0.

AFGHANISTAN
Hazratullah Zazai (not out) 37 *(28b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Hasaranga 40 *(18b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Ibrahim Zadran run out 15 *(13b, 2x4)*, Najibullah Zadran (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-7): 12; Total (for two wkts. in 10.1 overs): 106.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-83 (Gurbaz, 6.1), 2-103 (Ibrahim, 9.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Madushanka 1-0-10-0, Theekshana 4-0-35-0, Pathirana 1-0-16-0, Hasaranga 3-0-19-1, Karunaratne 1-0-20-0, Asalanka 0.1-0-1-0.

Toss: Afghanistan; **MoM:** Farooqi.

Afghanistan won by eight wickets with 9.5 overs to spare.

England draws level with an innings victory

REUTERS
MANCHESTER

The evergreen James Anderson took three wickets as England's seamers steered their side to victory over South Africa by an innings and 85 runs just before the close of the third day of the second Test at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Surpassing McGrath

The tourists were bowled out for 179 in their second innings with Anderson, who took three for 30, becoming the leading wicket-taker among pace bowlers across all formats by moving past Australian Glenn McGrath's total of 949 with his second scalp. Fellow seamer Ollie Robinson scalped four for 43.

Anderson. • REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

South Africa – 1st innings: 151.
England – 1st innings: 415 for nine decl.

South Africa – 2nd innings: Sarel Erwee c Foakes b Robinson 25, Dean Elgar b Anderson 11, Keegan Petersen c Foakes b Stokes 42, Aiden Markram c Crawley b Broad 6, Rassie van der Dussen c Foakes b Stokes 41, Kyle Verreynne (not out) 17, Simon Harmer b Anderson 16, Keshav Maharaj c Pope b Robinson 2, Kagiso Rabada c Root b Anderson 2, Anrich Nortje c Foakes b Robinson 0, Lungi Ngidi b Robinson 0; Extras (b-8, lb-2, nb-7): 17; Total (in 85.1 overs): 179.

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-39, 3-54, 4-141, 5-151, 6-172, 7-175, 8-178, 9-179.

England bowling: Anderson 15-4-30-3, Robinson 15.1-3-43-4, Leach 23-13-26-0, Root 5-2-16-0, Broad 13-5-24-1, Stokes 14-3-30-2.

MoM: Stokes.

England won by an innings and 85 runs to level three-Test series 1-1.

City roars back against Palace

Liverpool ruthless against Bournemouth

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Liverpool equalled the Premier League's record win with a 9-0 demolition of Bournemouth, while Erling Haaland's hat-trick inspired Manchester City's comeback 4-2 victory against Crystal Palace on Saturday.

On a remarkable day in the top-flight, 10-man Chelsea beat Leicester 2-1, while Manchester United's revival continued with a 1-0 win at Southampton.

Liverpool stole the spotlight as it recovered from Monday's lacklustre 2-1 loss at Manchester United in astonishing style.

After three games without a win, the Reds rebounded by equalling Manchester United's 9-0 wins against Ipswich in 1995 and Southampton in 2021, as well as Leicester's thrashing of Southampton in 2019.

Champions Manchester City staged another impressive rally as it came from 2-0 down to beat Palace at the Etihad Stadium.

Raheem Sterling scored his first goals for Chelsea in a dramatic win over Leicester.

Hat-trick hero: Haaland came up with the goods to bail City out from a pickle. • REUTERS

Erik ten Hag said Manchester United have learned from its dismal start to the season after Bruno Fernandes clinched a hard-fought win against Southampton.

The results: Premier League: Southampton 0 lost to Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 55); Brentford 1 (Janelt 84) drew with Everton 1 (Gordon 24); Brighton 1 (Gross 66) bt Leeds 0; Chelsea 2 (Sterling 47, 63) bt Leicester 1 (Barnes 66); Liverpool 9 (Diaz 3, 85, Elliott 6, Alexander-Arnold 28, Firmino 31, 62, Van Dijk 45, Mepham 46-og, Carvalho 80) bt Bournemouth 0; Manchester City 4 (Silva 53, Haaland 62, 70, 81) bt Crystal Palace 2 (Stones 4-og, Andersen 21); Arsenal 2 (Odegaard 64, Gabriel 86) bt Fulham 1 (Mitrovic 56).

Serie A: Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 2) drew with Roma 1 (Abraham 69).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 2 (Nkunku 5-pen, 90) bt VfL Wolfsburg 0; Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Dortmund 1 (Modeste 32); Bayern Munich 1 (Sane 83) drew with Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Thuram 42).

On Friday: Serie A: Lazio 3 (Anderson 40, Alberto 75, Rodriguez 86) bt Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 51).

La Liga: Real Betis 1 (Iglesias 34) bt Osasuna 0.

Satwik-Chirag win bronze

Lose once again to World No. 6 Malaysian pair Aaron & Soh

BWF WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty capped off a memorable campaign with a historic bronze medal in the men's doubles competition of the World Championships after losing narrowly to Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the semifinals here on Saturday.

The World No. 7 Indian pair, the Commonwealth Games gold winners, won the opening game but lost their way and went down 22-20, 18-21, 16-21 to the Olympic bronze medallists in a pulsating 77-minute clash. It was the sixth successive defeat to the World No. 6 pair for Satwik and Chirag.

Despite the loss, it was a creditable show by Satwik and Chirag, who became the first Indian pair to win a men's doubles medal at the World championships. It also meant that India has continued to return with a medal from the Worlds since 2011.

In the semifinal clash, Chirag looked a bit off-colour, while Satwik tried his best to make up for it. But the Malaysians proved to be faster on court and more subtle in strokeplay.

Creditable show: Chirag, left, and Satwik began well but could not maintain the flow. • AP

IN BRIEF

Disney Star wins ICC media rights

DUBAI

Disney Star has won the rights to broadcast all ICC events on a four-year deal from 2024 to 2027 for the Indian market, the sport's global governing body said on Saturday. Disney Star will be the home of all ICC cricket in India for the next four years, having won the TV and digital rights of both men's and women's global events till the end of 2027, the ICC said in a statement. PTI

Sainz claims pole for Belgian Grand Prix

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Carlos Sainz put Ferrari on pole position for the Belgian Grand Prix on Saturday after grid penalties were taken into account. Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen was comfortably fastest in qualifying for Red Bull but will start further down the field. REUTERS

Quick Guns back to winning ways

PUNE

Madan and Ramji Kashyap's brilliant performances helped Chennai Quick Guns get back to winning ways with a 57-36 victory over Rajasthan Warriors in the Ultimate Kho Kho here on Saturday. In the other match of the day, Odisha Juggernauts beat Mumbai Khiladis 60-37. PTI

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs Zimbabwe: 1st ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 5.30 a.m.

BWF World Championships: (final), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11.30 a.m. onwards

Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3 & 6 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.

F1: Belgian GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Ultimate Kho Kho: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7.30 & 8.45 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)

La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF

Sumariwalla co-opted as IOA president

NEW DELHI

Former sprinter Adille Sumariwalla has been co-opted as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Eighteen out of 31 IOA Executive Committee members voted in favour of Sumariwalla taking till fresh elections to the apex body's Executive Council are held. The elevation of Sumariwalla, the president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), was carried out in accordance with Clause 11.1.5 of the IOA Constitution after the president's post fell vacant following Narinder Batra's resignation.

Everton signs striker Maupay from Brighton

LONDON

Everton on Friday signed striker Neal Maupay from Premier League rival Brighton for an undisclosed fee. The 26-year-old penned a three-year contract. AFP

Big win for Falcon HC

BENGALURU

Falcon HC walloped Guru HC 15-3 in the DS Murthy & Radha Murthy Memorial hockey tournament, here on Friday.

Other results: Naveen HC bt Guru HC-B 9-5; DPS East bt JFHA-A 7-2; Shlok HC bt Rising Star HC 7-2; Aristocrat HC bt Naveen HC 5-2; Shlok HC bt DPS East 7-3; JFHA-A bt Rising Star HC 7-1; Falcon HC bt Naveen HC 8-2; Aristocrat HC bt Guru HC 8-3; DPS East bt Rising Star HC 9-5; Shlok HC bt JFHA-A 8-5; Falcon HC bt Aristocrat HC 6-0.

Rutuja and Sema duo wins title

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rutuja Bhosale won the doubles title with Erika Sema of Japan, defeating the British duo of Naiktha Bains and Maia Lumsden 4-6, 6-3, [11-9] in the final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Roehampton on Saturday.

It was the third doubles title of the season and 19th overall for the 26-year-old Rutuja in the professional circuit. It was also the second successive title with Erika Sema.

The results:

$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Doubles (final): Erika Sema (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Naiktha Bains & Maia Lumsden (GBr) 4-6, 6-3, [11-9].

Semifinals: Erika & Rutuja bt Shavit Kimchi (Isr) & Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) 4-6, 6-4, [10-4]; Naiktha & Maia bt Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Ankita Raina 7-6(5), 6-7(5), [10-5].

$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Quarterfinals: Solana Sierra bt R. Prathyusha 6-2, 6-3.

'Focus will be to end season on a high'

Wait for it... Neeraj says a 90m throw will happen when the time comes. • TWITTER/ATHLETISSIMA

Neeraj says Indians should participate in annual events

ATHLETICS

AGENCIES
LAUSANNE

Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra, who became the first Indian to win a Diamond League meet with an 89.08m throw on Friday night, said his win was an important moment for his country.

His result not only helped him qualify for the Diamond League finals in Zurich scheduled for Sept. 7-8, but also make the grade for the 2023 World Athletics Championships as he breached the 85.20m qualifying mark for Budapest. The success was also worth $10,000 to the Indian champion.

Neeraj was delighted to win on his comeback from a groin injury, which he picked up while bagging silver at the World Championships in Eugene and subsequently forced him to skip the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Important win

"This win is very important for our country. I feel we shouldn't be only focusing on the events that happen after four or two years. Competitions like Diamond League Meet or Continental Tour are really good opportunities for Indian athletes.

"It happens every year, and it gives us opportunities to do well. It really helps prepare well for the major tournaments because world-class athletes participate here.

"Performing well in these tournaments will also help Indian athletics," said Neeraj, who claimed the title with a 89.08m, his third career-best effort.

"I had to skip Commonwealth Games due to groin injury and I felt that I will have to end the season. But there wasn't much pain, so I had the belief that I will recover before the tournament."

"It's only 10 days, I don't have much time to do more or train extra. The focus will be to end the season on a positive note without any injury," Neeraj, whose personal best record is 89.94m, added.

"It's been a great year for me so far. I have gone over 89m thrice out of the five competitions...So, the performance has been consistent and now the focus is on doing well in Zurich.

"Yes, everyone has been asking about 90m throw, it will happen when the time comes, I don't have any pressure about it as such."

Navjeet fails out of competition dope test

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Navjeet Kaur Dhillon. • PTI

A few months after Tokyo Olympic finalist Kamalpreet Kaur failed a dope test, another leading woman discus thrower Navjeet Kaur Dhillon has run into dope trouble.

Navjeet, the fifth-best discus thrower in Asia this year and the 2018 Commonwealth Game bronze medallist, failed an out-of-competition dope test conducted by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on June 24 this year.

She tested positive for a metabolite of the anabolic steroid Dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, a non-specified substance prohibited by WADA at all times.

Navjeet's results from June 24, 2022 have been disqualified and all titles, awards, medals and appearance money will be forfeited.

Navjeet had won all the three meets she participated this year in India, including the Inter-State Nationals in Chennai in June. She had also won the title in the Qosanov memorial meet in Almaty on June 25, a day before she was tested.

The athlete, who has a personal best of 59.18m, was eighth in the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with 53.51.

Lifting of AIFF ban: Shabbir and others welcome move

Gokulam was the loser in this mess, says former striker

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India striker Shabbir Ali is delighted that FIFA lifted its ban on the AIFF, but extended his sympathies to Gokulam Kerala, saying the club ended up being the "losers" in the 11-day "mess".

The ban on All India Football Federation (AIFF) was revoked by the world football governing body on Friday night.

"AIFF should have thought about holding the elections in time. It's good that ban has been revoked," Shabbir said. "But in all this mess, it's not ATK Mohun Bagan nor U-17 Women's World Cup in India, it's the Gokulam Kerala who have ended up being losers. Why would they suffer? AIFF should think about compensating them," he added.

Former India woman football team captain Oinam Bembem Devi welcomed FIFA's decision.

Great moment

"It is a great moment, especially ftr woman footballers of the country to hear the news that FIFA has lifted the ban on AIFF," she said.

Ex-skipper Bhaichung Bhutia and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju also welcomed FIFA's decision to lift the suspension. "It's a wonderful news. I welcome the decision of the FIFA to lift the suspension on AIFF. It's a win for Indian football, nothing else," Bhutia said.

Rijiju tweeted: "Good news as FIFA lifts ban of All India Football Federation, after Supreme Court removed the mandate of the Committee of Administrators from the affairs of AIFF."

Mohammedan Sporting canters into the quarterfinals

Kerala Blasters coasts past NorthEast United for first win of the tournament

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Last year's finalist Mohammedan Sporting became the first team to confirm a quarterfinal berth in the 131st Durand Cup football, as it prevailed over Indian Air Force 2-0 in a Group-A league match at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Saturday.

Ousmane Ndiaye and Rahul Paswan found the target once each towards the end of the two halves for Sporting's third successive win and tally of nine points.

Bengaluru FC (six points from two matches), Jamshedpur (three from three) and FC Goa (three from three) are next in line. Indian Air Force (IAF) has lost all its three matches to be at the bottom of the current standings.

Controlling proceedings

Mohammedan Sporting controlled the proceedings from the start against a defensive IAF, which put extra men in its own half looking to thwart the opponent.

Firing it in: Ajsal blasts in Blasters' second against NorthEast United. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Ousmane broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute when he nodded home a provision from Pritam Singh following a corner. Sporting tried to double the lead after the break but its efforts were denied by the poor marksmanship of its attackers.

Paswan, who came in as a second-half substitute, finally fetched the second goal in the 87th minute with a nice effort.

Sports Bureau reports from Guwahati:

Meanwhile, Mohammed Aimen's brilliant brace helped Kerala Blasters beat North East United 3-0 in a Group D match for its first win of the tournament at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium.

Aimen provided the breakthrough in the 28th minute, while Muhammad Ajsal doubled the lead in the 55th. Aimen again found the mark in the 90th minute as Blasters produced a dominant display.

North East put early pressure on the Blasters goal but the yellow shirts defended well and launched some quick counterattacks.

One such counterattack earned Blasters the lead. Ajsal, challenged by a defender inside the area, sent it back to an advancing Gourav Kankonkar, whose attempt was blocked. Aimen controlled the rebound with his left foot and shot home with his right to put Blasters ahead.

Good coordination upfront fetched Blasters its second goal after resumption. Mohammed Azhar received a ball on the right side and supplied it to Ajsal to complete the move.

Amid occasional attacks from the home side, Blasters looked to improve its goal difference in the tournament. It did so when Aimen, assisted by his twin Azhar, swerved to beat goalkeeper Jackson Singh and achieve his brace in the closing minutes.

The results: Group A: Mohammedan Sporting 2 (Ousmane Ndiaye and Rahul Paswan 87) bt Indian Air Force 0.

Group D: Kerala Blasters 3 (Mohammed Aimen 28, 90, Muhammad Ajsal 55) bt NorthEast United 0.

Rajani looking ahead to the Asiad, Paris 2024

Commonwealth Games bronze was a huge motivation, says the goalkeeper

HOCKEY

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Rajani. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For E. Rajani, a member of the Indian women's hockey team which won a bronze medal in the recent Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the focus now shifts to the next Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"Yes, age is not a factor at all as long as you are fit to live up to the expectations," the 32-year-old Rajani informed *The Hindu*.

"Definitely, the CWG bronze is a huge motivation for the entire Indian team led by Savita Punia. It was a complete team effort and full credit also goes to the chief coach and the entire support staff," the soft-spoken Officer on Special Duty in Railways based in Mumbai said.

"Definitely, it would have been great if I had played in the eleven. But again, what is important is that the team rose to the occasion. And, I can tell you this Indian team is beating the best given the kind of inspirational coaching it is getting," said Rajani, who is taking a break from the sport to spend time with her family now in Tirupati.

For someone who played 96 internationals since 2009 including 2018 Asiad silver, 2017 Asia Cup gold, 2016 Asian Champions Trophy gold, the Andhra hockey player is conscious of the kind of efforts needed to win medals in the Asian Games and the Olympics.

Long-term planning

"With the national camp likely to start in a few days, long-term planning will be in place as each member of the team is aware of the role she has to play. Importantly, this team is better off in handling pressure in any given situation," said Rajani.

"The best part for me during the recent CWG is the fact that I have been part of the team meetings and close to the action out there," said the reserve goalkeeper.

"Yes, I am ready whenever given the chance to play in the eleven. This is a team game and I am aware that one has to wait for the opportunity to come by," Rajani said.

"It is good to be recognised for your efforts and I am grateful to the Sports Authority of India, Hockey India and the State Government for all the support," said Rajani, who was also a member of the last Tokyo Olympics where India put up an impressive show.

Corfe Castle primed for Governor's Cup

HYDERABAD: The seven-year-old Corfe Castle, who is in good shape, should not find it difficult to win the Governor's Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 28) races.

1 NORTHERN DANCER PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65, 2.00 p.m.: 1. Red Snaper (2) Kuldeep Singh 60, 2. Beauty On Parade (9) A.A. Vikrant 56, 3. DRD (7) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 4. Able Love (5) Akshay Kumar 52.5, 5. Ambitious Star (10) Nakhat Singh 51, 6. Angelita (1) Vivek G 51, 7. Hashtag (3) Gaurav Singh 51, 8. Costello (6) P. Sai Kumar 50.5, 9. Miss Little Angel (8) B.R. Kumar 50.5 and 10. Rhythm Selection (4) Afroz Khan 50.5.

1. ABLE LOVE, 2. HASHTAG, 3. COSTELLO

2 HYPERION PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Exotic Dancer (6) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. N R I Millennium (4) Antony Raj 58.5, 3. Golden Forza (3) Kuldeep Singh 58, 4. Ok Boss (10) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Lightning Fairy (7) Khurshad Alam 53.5, 6. First Class (8) B. Nikhil 52.5, 7. Lady Danger (9) D.S. Deora 52.5, 8. Lights On (2) Gaurav Singh 52.5, 9. Dessee (1) Mohit Singh 52 and 10. Inside Story (5) R.S. Jodha 52.

1. EXOTIC DANCER, 2. OK BOSS, 3. GOLDEN FORZA

3 COLONEL B. SANTOSH BABU MEMORIAL CUP (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 3.10: 1. Canterbury (11) B. Nikhil 56, 2. Divine Destiny (3) Uday Kiran 56, 3. Golden Inzio (4) Aneel 56, 4. Jack Daniel (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Soorya Vahan (8) Md. Ismail 56, 6. Survivor (9) Surya Prakash 56, 7. Alina (1) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 8. Alpine Girl (2) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 9. Bellaque (6) D.S. Deora 54.5, 10. Black Opal (14) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 11. Divine Connection (13) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 12. Ella Eldingar (7) G. Naresh 54.5, 13. N R I Angel (12) Antony Raj 54.5 and 14. Sound Echo (10) Kuldeep Singh 54.5.

1. SURVIVOR, 2. ALPINE GIRL, 3. BELLAQUE

4 GOVERNOR'S CUP (1,400m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 3.45: 1. Corfe Castle (6) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 2. Hartnell (7) Mohit Singh 58.5, 3. Top Secret (5) D.S. Deora 51, 4. New Look (1) Gaurav Singh 50, 5. Premier Action (3) Afroz Khan 50, 6. Xfinity (2) Ajeeth Kumar 50 and 7. Mirana (4) P. Gaddam 50.

1. CORFE CASTLE, 2. NEW LOOK

5 ARTILLERY CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.20: 1. Kingston (8) Kuldeep Singh 60, 2. By The Bay (1) Suraj Narredu 59, 3. Galwan (6) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 4. Gregor Clegane (3) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 5. N R I Sport (5) Antony Raj 54, 6. Char Ek Char (10) Vivek G 53, 7. Royal Grace (9) Akshay Kumar 52.5, 8. General Atlantic (4) B. Nikhil 51.5, 9. Bangor On Dee (2) Afroz Khan 51 and 10. Shazam (7) D.S. Deora 50.5.

1. BY THE BAY, 2. GALWAN, 3. GREGOR CLEGANE

6 ASIFABAD PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Mysterious Angel (10) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Indian Temple (3) Mohit Singh 57.5, 3. Explosive (2) Kuldeep Singh 56, 4. Pedro Planet (1) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 5. Archangels (8) Suraj Narredu 54, 6. Call Of The Blue (7) Gaurav Singh 52.5, 7. Fatuma (6) P. Gaddam 52.5, 8. Exponent (5) Nakhat Singh 52, 9. Flamingo Fame (4) Santosh Raj 52 and 10. Sweet Melody (9) R.S. Jodha 51.

1. MYSTERIOUS ANGEL, 2. PEDRO PLANET, 3. ARCHANGELS

Day's best: **ABLE LOVE**

Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 4, 5 & 6.

Tanala : All races.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Paddlers Teshub and Sahana crowned under-17 champions

Teshub Dinesh and Sahana H. Murthy emerged the boys' and girls' under-17 singles champions respectively at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament organised by Belagavi District Table Tennis Association.

The results (finals):

Teshub Dinesh bt Abhinav K. Murthy 8-11, 11- 4, 13-11, 11-8, 11-4.

Girls: Sahana H. Murthy bt Deshna M. Vanshika 7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 12-14, 11-7, 13-11.

Amreen sets new meet record in women's hammer throw

Amreen set a new meet record in women's hammer throw with a heave of 46.54m on the second day of the Karnataka State Athletics Championship, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

Also on the day, K. Mijo Chack and M. Likitha clinched the men's and women's 400m titles respectively.

While Mijo came home in 46.7s, Likitha secured the gold with a timing of 54.94s.

Thoi Singh does the 'trick as Bengaluru FC runs riot against Young Challengers

Thoi Singh scored a hat-trick as Bengaluru FC thrashed Young Challengers 8-0 in the BDFA Super Division Football League, here on Saturday.

The results: BFC 8 (Rajanbir Singh 9, Clarence Savio Fernandes 21, Huidrom Thoi Singh 41, 45, 54, 81, Sudheer Kotikela 82, Monirul Molla 78) bt Young Challengers FC 0; Bangalore Independents FC 2 (Mahim P.Hussain 19, U.K. Surya 63) bt FC Agni Putra 1 (Uttam Raj 71).

Vaasav Venkatesh excels in Jolly Cricketers' thumping win

Vaasav Venkatesh's all-round effort (4/19 & 53 n.o.) helped Jolly Cricketers thump Wilson Garden CC by eight wickets in the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club tournament.

The scores:

Wilson Garden CC 139 in 36.3 overs (Mohammed Fahad Ali 28, J. Sukruth 44, Vaasav Venkatesh 4/19) lost to Jolly Cricketers 141/2 in 26.3 overs (S. Vaibhav 45, M. Dixit 27, Vaasav Venkatesh 53 n.o.).

Swastic Union CC (2)254/4 in 50 overs(R. Shiv 49, V. Nabhas 47, Rehan Mohammed 62 n.o., U.B. Nishit Srivatsa 65 n.o.) bt Hammonds CC 247/7 in 50 overs (Dhruv Santhosh Rao 32, Sachith Shenoy Konchady 49, M.P. Ayush 80 n.o., Ayush S.Kumar 3/43).

Chintamani SA 168 in 40.3 overs(C.V. Vidhur Reddy 27, Arnav Sunderraman Iyer 65, Sai Kritin Yedidi 4/27) lost to BUCC (1) 170/9 in 45.3 overs (Harshil Arigala 48, Hayth Nagori 33 n.o., Dhanush Pai 3/28, Vignesh Rana 5/29).

FUCC (2) 222 in 46.2 overs (Aarnav Verma 56, Shaurya Manish 50, N. Nitin Reddy 26, Keerthi Krishna Hegde 3/31) bt Century Cricketers 117 in 25.3 overs (Keerthi Krishna Hegde 26, Sainath Rajoli 3/4).

Cambridge CC 342/7 in 50 overs (Krishav Somasundar 34, Eesa Hakeem Puthige 51, Aryan Kundap 108, Daniel James 36 n.o., M. Shrenik 3/72) bt Jaidur Cricketers 113 in 29.5 overs (Kushal P.Nandinervanda 28 n.o., Mohammad Ibrahim Rayyan 3/26, B.U. Ayush Ponnappa 5/15).

Modern CC 189/8 in 50 overs (M. Assad 27, Zuhayr N.Khan 44, Agastya Manoj 33 n.o., Sreeashwin Balusu 3/25) lost to Young Lions Club 190/4 in 33.4 overs (Karan Raghavendra 35, Rakshan 58 n.o., Ansh Agrawal 38).

Nadal laments Djokovic's absence from the Slam

US OPEN

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Rafa Nadal said it was sad news that his great rival Novak Djokovic will be missing from the U.S. Open, adding that the absence of a player of the Serbian's calibre was an important miss for the hardcourt Grand Slam.

"From my personal perspective, it's very sad news," Nadal, who leads the men's Grand Slam race with 22 titles, told reporters on Friday.

"It's always a shame when the best players of the world are not able to play a tournament because of injuries or because of different reasons. In this case, not having one of the best players of the history in the draw of a Slam is always an important miss, no?"

Tough

Nadal said it was tough for both players and the fans as everyone want the best players to compete at big events.

"But on the other hand, I repeat what I said plenty of times: the sport in some ways is bigger than any player," added the 36-year-old, who has been plagued by injuries during the last two seasons.